STORIES OF ALPINE ADVENTURE AND BALLOON ADVENTURE

Edmund M. W. Macauslan

WITH ROPE AND ICE-AXE.
(Drawn by Frank Dean, R.I.)

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BY

FRANK MUNDELL

AUTHOR OF
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PREFACE

In the following pages will be found a number of incidents of Alpine Adventure, its delights, difficulties, and dangers. As in other volumes of this series, no attempt has been made at historical or consecutive narrative—the object being simply to present a series of pictures of some of the most remarkable scenes which have taken place in the "Playground of Europe."

F. M.

CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Mont Blanc is the Monarch of Mountains,
They crown'd him long ago
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,
With a diadem of snow.

BYRON.

STORIES

OF

ALPINE ADVENTURE

CHAPTER I.

ON MOUNTAINEERING.

THE [illegible] nature. Almost all [illegible] have not the opportunities of [illegible]

[illegible] the most fascinating [illegible] for a limited [illegible] pastime was known, and [illegible] of Europe but at Mont Blanc [illegible] any attention

[illegible] the Alps [illegible] which [illegible] for the purpose of [illegible] passes and glaciers of the Alps [illegible] in regard to this [illegible] It was not long before it was [illegible] wholesome beautiful and full of [illegible] covered The Alps quickly became [illegible] of Europe Within comparatively [illegible] years of mountaineering [illegible] ample [illegible] And the Alpine valleys [illegible] guides men who were fearless [illegible] and almost as sure footed as the [illegible] enchanted among the rocky fastnesses. M[illegible] tastes and professions [illegible] in the sport, and [illegible] from the [illegible] and the necessity of [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] suggest [illegible] as the Alps [illegible] and what chances of weather, and of the most important [illegible] that the mountaineer should [illegible] the weather [illegible], and that he should be [illegible] in [illegible] as an [illegible]. What [illegible] conditions are [illegible] to every mountain, becomes [illegible] under a storm. Avalanches and falling [illegible] [illegible] have to be encountered, [illegible] crevasses have to be crossed. There are [illegible] a host of minor risks, and experience [illegible] tell the mountaineer how these may be wisely met.

"Patience, pluck, and perseverance would be [illegible] motto for the Alpine adventurer for these [illegible] which are absolutely essential, as will be [illegible], the following pages. The words of one of [illegible] contain advice of late precious [illegible] who would attain the heights. He says [illegible] that courage and strength are naught [illegible] and that a momentary negligence [illegible] the [illegible] of a lifetime. By noting [illegible] well to each step and from the [illegible] what may be the end."

CHAPTER II.

THE KING OF MONT BLANC.

[illegible] man could do it, I think I can' [illegible] at the [illegible] of [illegible] cottage one evening in 1786, looking with [illegible] eyes [illegible] white-headed monarch of the Alpine peaks.

[illegible] was a guide by profession and has one [illegible] could [illegible] to reach the summit of Mont Blanc, [illegible] the first man to stand [illegible] highest point of land of the European continent. [illegible] was told with the dazzling [illegible] it was [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] him where he was going.

[illegible] sleep up there."

[illegible] the mountain-side

[illegible] Mitsu[illegible] [illegible] passed [illegible] [illegible] As he advanced he kept [illegible] place at which [illegible] presented itself and it [illegible] too far to retrace his steps [illegible] he was faced with the necessity of [illegible] However, [illegible] through [illegible] difference and [illegible] likely [illegible] [illegible] he determ[illegible]

[illegible]

dawn.

[illegible]

silvery light all around.

[illegible]

[illegible] night passed.

[illegible] mountain.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

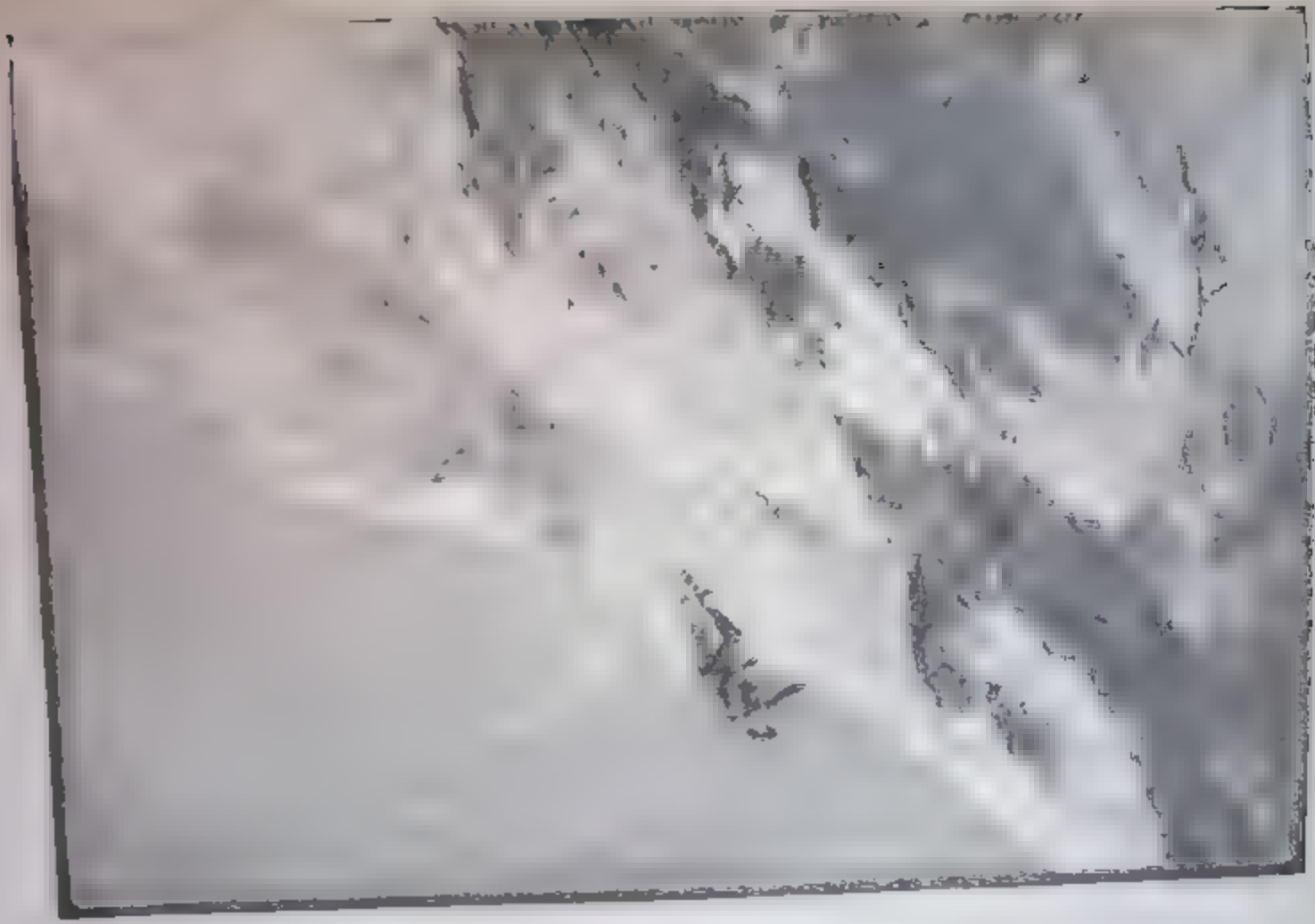
[illegible]

[illegible] which he found [illegible] had [illegible] to [illegible]

When he returned to the spot where he had left his [illegible] he was [illegible] to find the place [illegible] by the [illegible] of the [illegible] had [illegible] the attempt to [illegible] and return to the valley [illegible] their tracks [illegible] slowed.

[illegible] the [illegible], the lady [illegible] did not know whether to [illegible] [illegible]. The temptation to follow them was [illegible] but the thought that success was nearly [illegible] prevailed on him to remain. He scrambled [illegible] slowly and painfully. The top [illegible] was now enveloped in mist, so he [illegible] to go any further, for he knew [illegible] reaching the summit, he [illegible] by the villagers.

He [illegible] to seek for some place in which [illegible] a snugly sheltered spot [illegible] he [illegible] to bury [illegible] The [illegible] behind [illegible] [illegible] my [illegible] was ready



blood. When[illegible] he looked he seemed to see [illegible] spots of blood. Unable to proceed [illegible] he sat down and closed his eyes.

At the end of half an hour he had so far recovered that he was able to resume his descent. He had not gone more than a few hundred yards when his stick gave way beneath him, and the next instant he felt the snow was sinking beneath his weight; he was on the verge of the former crevasse. With the instinctive promptness of a man who is used to act in sudden emergency, he threw himself back just in time to save himself from being precipitated into the depths below. Cautiously he walked along the side of the crevasse, looking for the frail ice bridge by which he had crossed in the morning, but again his eyesight failed. When he recovered night had set in, and there was no escape from the fearful necessity of spending the night where he was, two thousand feet higher than on the former occasion.

Covering his face with his handkerchief he sat [illegible] Away down in the valley [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] feeling, but [illegible] for its repetition.

[illegible] took possession of him. He knew [illegible] that these feelings were the harbingers [illegible] he strove against them [illegible] The sounds from the valley [illegible] for a time till one by [illegible] and even the dog [illegible] Then he felt as if the last [illegible] earth had [illegible] He never [illegible] they [illegible]

[illegible] the summit

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

between excitement and crushed forwardness, I could hardly tell. More than once I almost thought to take a couple of guides with me, but we parted finally to seal covenant. If you cannot trust a man with his own at home, I will go alone."

The reply was worthy of the stalwart lexicographer, consisting only of a couple of blankets and a quantity of food, and some rum to mix with the water. Neither brandy nor wine was included in this occasion, for Bennet had found from previous experience that one I had had a little more harm than good.

About two o'clock they started, leaving the village without notice so as not to arouse the curiosity of the people. The first night was passed on the mountain in comparative comfort, and at two o'clock next morning the two adventurers resumed their journey. All went well for a time till they arrived at an immense glacier, the sight of which filled Bennet with apprehension. His fears of the glacier were soon verified with a dreadful force, and he would not have crossed it, the expedition

Mr. [illegible] always invested the unknown with [illegible] terrors, and this dread was no exception to the rule. [illegible] of the coal concealed immense

[illegible] had to be crossed on [illegible] bridges which creaked beneath their feet and on which a [illegible] [illegible] have been fatal. For a time [illegible] was [illegible] The confidence of [illegible] returned [illegible] and he went boldly forward.

[illegible] passed the Grands Mulets [illegible] pointed out the [illegible] on which he had passed the first night, and again the [illegible] was ready to [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible]. At the same moment, to add to [illegible] a sudden gust of wind sent his hat [illegible] over the precipice. So [illegible] was [illegible] that the two men had to throw themselves [illegible] their faces, and as they lay there were in [illegible] danger of being buried under the [illegible] snow which the tempest tossed [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] on their hands and knees they managed [illegible] to the Dome du Goûter. Here [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] He [illegible] was [illegible] Every [illegible] He [illegible] were [illegible] the day the eight [illegible] [illegible] his [illegible] [illegible] head down in [illegible] would be [illegible] forward [illegible] having reached the [illegible] He [illegible] Yes [illegible] [illegible] among [illegible] of **Mont Blanc.**

[illegible] battle [illegible] the rush of thoughts [illegible] which passed through the mind of the [illegible] at this moment. More than once I [illegible] in dread expectation that there might [illegible] great altitude, but his apprehension [illegible] groundless. Every other mountain top lay [illegible] Away down in the valley he could [illegible] assembled to [illegible] of the [illegible] of mountains." A [illegible] of [illegible] tottering old [illegible] that [illegible] handkerchiefs [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] sufficient

[illegible] ANC.

[illegible] hasty glance round, to [illegible] he had reached the [illegible] reached the spot [illegible] Fahrenheit [illegible] ly

[illegible] the top of Mont Blanc [illegible] of a wave of [illegible] [illegible] sleep.

[illegible] to the top of [illegible] too.

[illegible] the guide pointed out the various features of a grandeur panorama which lay unfolded before [illegible] His words fell on deaf ears [illegible] So with a final wave of his hat to [illegible] begin the descent, [illegible] Pierre had now lost all power of [illegible] and it was only by [illegible] —pushing him at the [illegible] on his back and [illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] at eight they

[illegible] Little [illegible] found [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] OF [illegible] ADVENTURE

[illegible] and [illegible] to see in the twilight.

[illegible] And the [illegible] recovered his sight.

CHAPTER III.

EARLY ASCENTS OF MONT BLANC.

THE news of Balmat's successful ascent of Mont Blanc quickly spread over Europe and reached the ears of Horace de Saussure, professor of natural philosophy in the college at Geneva. For twenty-seven years it had been the dream of his life to reach the summit of Mont Blanc and make scientific observations; but the idea that the mountain was inaccessible had always held him back from the attempt. Now his chance had come, and he lost no time in taking advantage of it.

In July [illegible] arrived at Chamonix [illegible]

[illegible] night was spent at the foot of a [illegible] on the next day they scaled [illegible] snow-bound [illegible]. The cold was so intense that [illegible] it was decided it would be fatal to [illegible] the night in the open. The tent was [illegible] low [illegible] the snow, and all crowded [illegible] it. [illegible] the atmosphere became so oppressive that [illegible] Scott went out to breathe. The [illegible] was [illegible] with the [illegible] It was a scene of the most [illegible] magnificence.

Early [illegible] morning the travel was resumed and [illegible] days of laborious scrambling the summit was gained.

When Sir Scott emerged the view spread out [illegible] around him, the guides [illegible] up the [illegible] instruments, but when [illegible] these [illegible] he experienced the greatest [illegible] feeling owing to the rarefaction [illegible] Over and over again he was compelled [illegible] [illegible] For three hours [illegible] [illegible] without having [illegible] The descent was [illegible] completed in safety by

[illegible] the [illegible] of [illegible]." He was the first [illegible] of science.

The Marie [illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible]. She was [illegible] of [illegible] for her [illegible] follow [illegible] of [illegible] to [illegible] of the [illegible] all of them [illegible] that she [illegible] in her [illegible] to [illegible] adventure. At length [illegible] winning [illegible] named [illegible] T[illegible] who showed her the way to the summit.

Many years later this feat was emulated by another lady — a Swiss lady, Mademoiselle d'Angeville [illegible] with [illegible] guides set out [illegible] the [illegible] of September [illegible]. She was [illegible] temperature, and [illegible]. When the summit [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] M[illegible] [illegible]

On the morning of the 1st of July 1876 an [illegible] and [illegible] left [illegible] to [illegible] Mont Maladette in the Pyrenees. Here it was proposed to spend two days on the [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] by the [illegible] Accordingly they left [illegible] at eight hours [illegible] the [illegible] After [illegible] hours [illegible] the [illegible] we [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] observations.

[illegible] will [illegible] the [illegible] of the valleys, [illegible] [illegible] employed—fifteen hours [illegible] and of the intrepidity [illegible] Their progress was [illegible] the whole day, and every window [illegible] view of the path was [illegible] [illegible] tickets from [illegible] The [illegible] was a perfect triumph, the whole [illegible] at [illegible] them. A display of [illegible] day to a close.

[illegible] stay at the Mont Maladette we [illegible] [illegible] and come to [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] which [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

skilful guides could [illegible]

[illegible] was [illegible] stretched [illegible] down, and [illegible] years, [illegible] The entries were [illegible] The last one read as follows—

We are without food. My feet are already frozen, and I am dying. I have only strength to write a few more words. I die with faith in God and my last thoughts are of you.

From the contemplation of so [illegible] a tragedy let us now turn to the ascent of Miss Mary Isabella Straton, which took place in the winter of 1876. Accompanied by two guides and two porters she started from Chamonix on the 28th of January, and arrived safely at the Grands Mulets. Favoured by fine weather, on the following day she might have reached the summit had not one of the porters fallen into a crevasse and injured himself so severely that a return to the Grands Mulets was found imperative. On the following day the party went down to the valley.

[illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible] speedily. Presently a halt had to be made for two, as the dumb-bell fingers were frost-bitten and [illegible] and they had been vigorously rubbed [illegible] warm enough to feel that the guides would allow her to proceed.

Meanwhile the wind had increased in fury, and was whirling the snow hither and thither in clouds. With unremitting perseverance she struggled forward, and at three o'clock in the afternoon reached the summit. When we recall that the thermometer showed [illegible] degrees below zero, we can form an idea of the courage that was needed to achieve that result. After [illegible] the view, which the intrepid lady tells us was magnificent beyond all anticipation, the return journey was commenced. She reached the Grands Mulets at seven o'clock, and on the following day returned with her guides to Chamouni, having accomplished a feat unique in the annals of Mont Blanc.

CHAPTER IV.

ENGULPHED IN THE SNOW.

FAR, [illegible] attempt to reach the summit of Mont Blanc was made in the year 1820 by Dr. Hamel. He was employed by the Emperor of Russia to make some important observations, in course of which he determined to ascend Mont Blanc. His party consisted of a Genevan optician named Selligue, two Englishmen Dunford and Henderson, and twelve guides.

When they started the weather was clear, and gave promise of a pleasant and successful journey. But now the first misfortune followed them. They had not gone very far when one of the guides swallowed some sulphuric acid in mistake for syrup of ginger. Fortunately there was a house at hand, from which the doctor obtained some wood ashes, mixed them with water and made the guide swallow [illegible] to be

[illegible] provisions.

[illegible] however [illegible] weather [illegible] to proceed. We, [illegible] all the party should turn [illegible] the [illegible] that he had lost [illegible] that his [illegible] for adventure [illegible] by passing two nights [illegible] [illegible] His companions tried [illegible] to return, but without avail. He [illegible] so they agreed to let him [illegible] two days while he [illegible] [illegible] to-day here.

[illegible] The weather was [illegible] pleasant when we left. So they [illegible] the bottom of the Grand Plateau [illegible] the party could not stand [illegible] they [illegible] night, and they [illegible] [illegible] weather not having

[illegible]

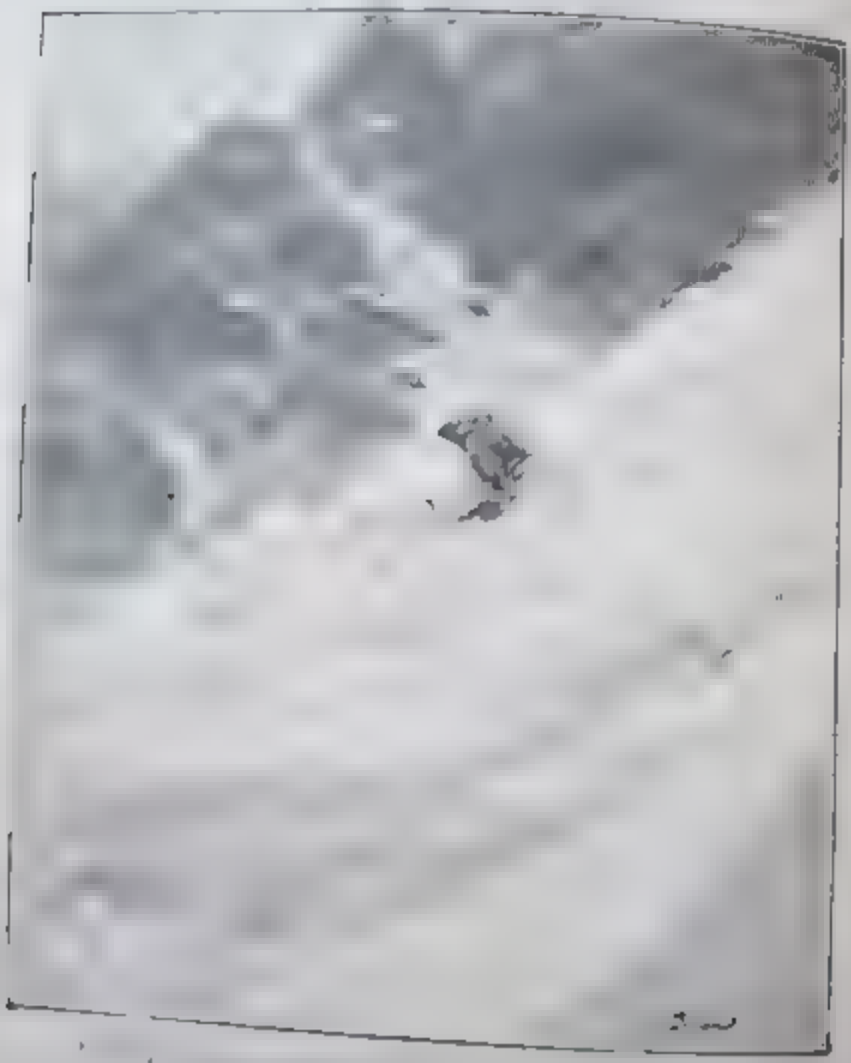
[illegible]

As the [illegible] party were [illegible] slowly through the snow, [illegible] fact [illegible] they were [illegible] to lose [illegible] What happened [illegible] the [illegible] is recorded in the words of Durnford.

While [illegible] the story [illegible] that had been [illegible] the [illegible] plowing [illegible] its way and burrowing its downward [illegible] two [illegible] feet [illegible] below. The [illegible] of snow [illegible] thrown [illegible] backwards [illegible] I was [illegible] down in spite of [illegible] and my people were [illegible] out of my [illegible] A [illegible] of [illegible] I [illegible], but so far from [illegible] of our position, that on [illegible] of my companions [illegible] that [illegible] water [illegible] I [illegible] from a [illegible] mark till a [illegible] that the other [illegible] of [illegible] were [illegible]

"[illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible]

[illegible] perplexing thing, [illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

quickly recovered.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] forward again. [illegible] at length arrived [illegible] they told the pitiful tale of [illegible]

[illegible] of Mont Blanc [illegible]

[illegible] the Mayor. He was

travel-stained and worn, and carried on his shoulders a sack which, when it was opened, was found to contain human remains. The man stated that he had found them at the terminus of the Glacier de Bossons when entering the valley from Montfort. Inquiries were instituted, and an examination was held. It was then proved beyond doubt that these were the bodies of the guides who had perished in the crevasse in 1820. The surviving guides had recently identified them. Their flesh was in a perfect state of preservation, as were also their hats and clothes. Even a large piece of the guides' knapsack was quite fresh, but went to pieces on being exposed to the air.

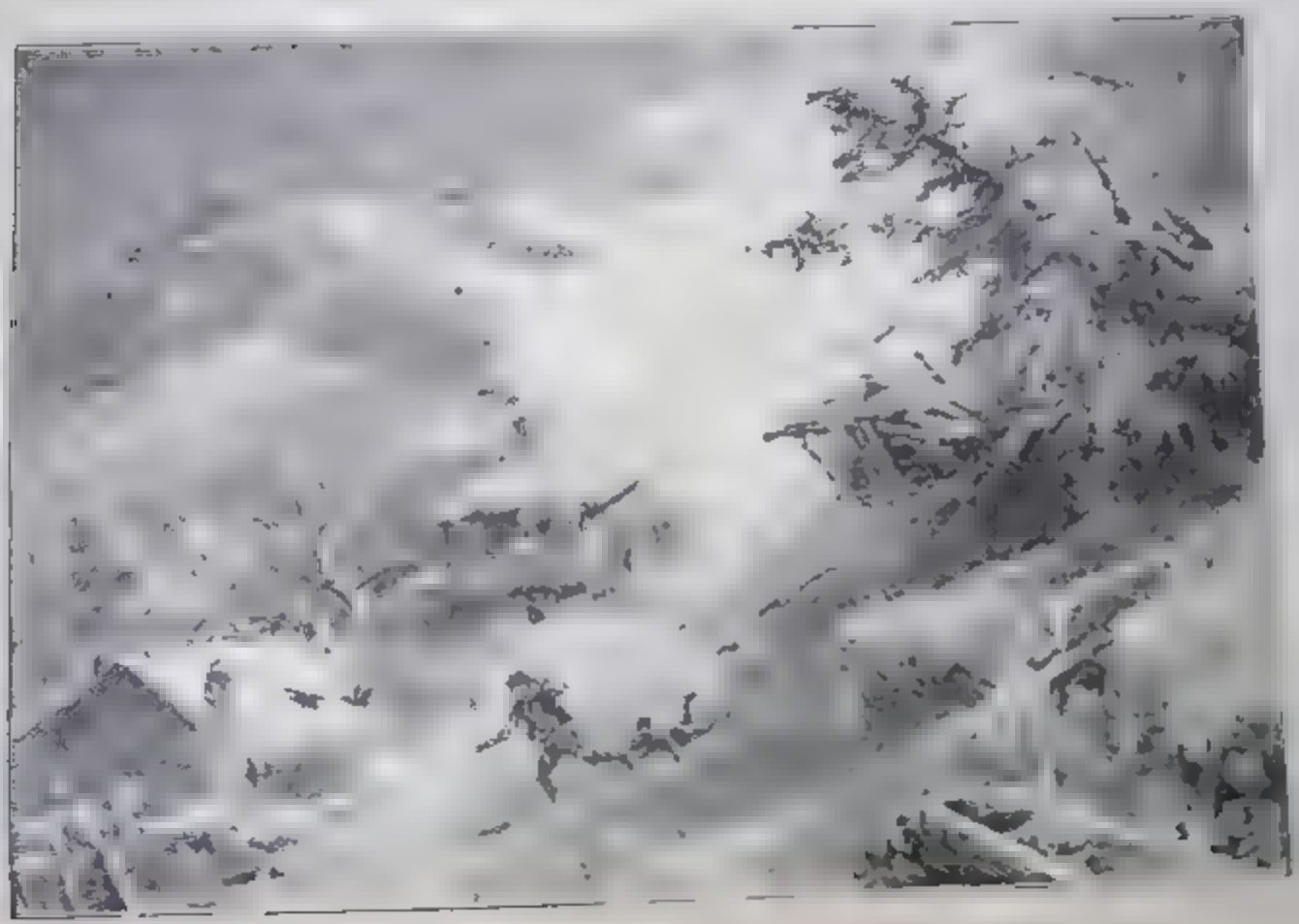
CHAPTER V.

FIVE WEEKS BURIED.

FOR three days the snow had fallen continuously, and the few houses at Bergandi were nearly crushed and buried by the drifts. On the fourth day however—the 19th of March 1755—the weather cleared, and Joseph Rocha and his son went out to clear away the snow, and shovel it from the roof of their house. They were so busily engaged in that task that they did not hear a terrific noise as of the discharge of a salvo of artillery. Suddenly they were startled by a shout from a man who was [illegible] below.

"Are you all there?" he cried. "An avalanche is [illegible] down the mountain in your direction. Get out of the way, or you will be overtaken."

[illegible] did not need a second bidding. They [illegible] down the road and fled precipitately



AN AVALANCHE.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of Ap[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] very great difficulty. [illegible] he had done much darkness came on.

[illegible] he was [illegible] who [illegible] on the [illegible] and [illegible] was greatly [illegible] at once started. He now proposed [illegible] his search.

[illegible] went to work with a will, and in a [illegible] time they reached the house. [illegible] feelings of hope and apprehension [illegible]. No sound broke the stillness. Every[illegible] on that dreadful day. [illegible] they looked [illegible] corner was [illegible] no trace of th[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] they asked each other in

amid a few [illegible]. For a time they stood rooted to the spot. Was it possible that the woman had left the house and been overtaken by the avalanche? Suddenly [illegible], who seems to have been slightly unhinged since the [illegible] of the disaster, remembered that the woman and children had gone to the stable about three hundred yards away to feed the goats some little time before he went on to the roof.

In desperation they again set to work. A passage had nearly been opened when they heard a faint voice crying "Help, my dear brother, help!" The sound of life put fresh vigour into their arms, and they attacked the snow barrier with redoubled fury. At length an opening was made and the brother descended, while the husband ran off to procure help. Terribly the wife, sister, and [illegible] children were [illegible] at the [illegible]

[illegible] The [illegible] were [illegible] the [illegible] spected [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] they found [illegible] Instinctively they [illegible] they dis[illegible]

[illegible] a depth of snow. The only food [illegible] of these and a [illegible] their breakfast on the [illegible] the rats were finished, [illegible] for the two goats, they would certai[illegible] of starvation. These [illegible] a day at first [illegible] shed [illegible] three of the [illegible] the animals [illegible] the water pulled [illegible] and

[illegible] helped themselves.

After the first few days all feeling of hunger passed [illegible] ds. [illegible] Not a

SWISS CHÂLETS.

[illegible]

[illegible] Then the [illegible], [illegible] or [illegible] dropped off their perch and was heard no more.

Day and night was now alike to them, as they [illegible] the [illegible] Their [illegible] [illegible] down on the [illegible], the [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the prospect of [illegible] [illegible] enough, [illegible] but they despair. Through [illegible] everything they felt that they would not be [illegible] and the wife was confident that her husband would [illegible] their deliverer. Strangely enough, the [illegible] came about just in the manner she had expected.

CHAPTER VI.

ADVENTURES ON THE SCHREKHORN.

USTACE Anderson accompanied by two guides and porters set out from Grindelwald on the 7th of August 1857 to climb the Schreckhorn. They started about ten o'clock in the morning and proceeded leisurely at first. They had not gone very far when Anderson thought that a light lantern might be of service to him, so he despatched one of the porters for one.

Passing along by meadows in which the haymakers were busy at work they ascended in the direction of a large patch of snow. The sun shone brightly on the roofs of the peasants' cottages, well-clad [illegible] through the clear mountain air [illegible] the sounds [illegible] the snow patch [illegible] when the [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] spot where the rock was [illegible] of the [illegible] It was [illegible] from which Anderson looking [illegible] peak. Turning to his guide, he [illegible] of the nearer one. "[illegible]" was the reply.

[illegible] he inquired.

"Schreckhorn too."

[illegible]

[illegible] hundred feet higher [illegible] to all [illegible] the path [illegible] might [illegible]

[illegible]

another avalanche des

ON THE BRINK OF A CORNICE.

When it ceased, the

and retreated. He

[illegible]

[illegible] they reached the summit [illegible] strength and stay that it could not [illegible] of desert. A column with [illegible] the last chance to retreat [illegible] Perhaps [illegible] the [illegible] towards [illegible] and be made at [illegible] possible. [illegible] was a most

[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CHAPTER VII

[illegible]

MANY [illegible] mountain as invincible.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] hand in the carving.

HEWING A PATHWAY.

[illegible]

[illegible] later [illegible] N[illegible] wonder[illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] and We[illegible] was [illegible] by the [illegible] arduous climb.

He [illegible] was [illegible] and Tan[illegible] felt as if he was [illegible] to [illegible] by a pest[illegible] [illegible] is possible to contact the [illegible] that [illegible] Dang[illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] wents were [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] human hand appear[illegible] to [illegible] light which it had never assume[illegible] [illegible] constructive [illegible] As [illegible] the professor jump from point to point [illegible] other ways, lest some sudden [illegible] and [illegible] determined to turn back [illegible] [illegible] town of exhaustion [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] of utter despondency [illegible] that they [illegible] their legs. His words [illegible] that [illegible] We [illegible] the [illegible] The [illegible] were [illegible] determination. After [illegible] they were forward [illegible]

After a long [illegible] and [illegible] and there within comparatively easy [illegible] stood the snowy pyramid [illegible] the sky." Defeat was now impossible [illegible] toward with renewed energy. Quickly they [illegible] the intervening space and at the [illegible] reached a large prism [illegible] edge of pure snow [illegible] point [illegible] passed along the [illegible] and reached [illegible] and the summit of the Weisshorn was won. [illegible] feet [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] first [illegible] was to [illegible]

the summit.

[illegible] should have been [illegible] to tell [illegible] a single fold step would [illegible] people to come down to [illegible] and speak [illegible] would have been required to stop.

[illegible] could be [illegible] presented herself to be a [illegible] lady [illegible]. At one point [illegible] was [illegible] of the rock [illegible] appeared to be still and not to move [illegible] the way. The rock was certainly [illegible] the professor's [illegible] procedure [illegible] directly [illegible] weighed at [illegible] hundred pounds. It was not till [illegible] and [illegible] with no more than [illegible] [illegible]. Any inspector [illegible] [illegible] own and he would [illegible] [illegible] sequences after [illegible] [illegible] Another [illegible] hundred [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] they were looking for something.

[illegible] packing [illegible]

[illegible] and order some food

[illegible] his arduous adventure.

CHAPTER VIII.

WHYMPER AND THE MATTERHORN.

THE name of Edward Whymper, [illegible] familiar [illegible] that [illegible] of the most [illegible] His [illegible] the same [illegible] the [illegible] he [illegible] to the [illegible] at length [illegible] his patience and perseverance.

N[illegible] displayed than by Whymper [illegible] attempts to [illegible] the Matterhorn [illegible] the Alps [illegible]

It [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

virtually a refusal

[illegible]

[illegible] him.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] cut their ears.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Whymper [illegible] the [illegible] He [illegible] to [illegible] was [illegible] Whymper [illegible] and so he [illegible] to [illegible] the return was [illegible] safety.

[illegible] Whymper [illegible] determined to [illegible] the [illegible] the following year he returned to [illegible] by a friend named Macdonald, [illegible] he brought with him a tent [illegible] which he hoped would be strong [illegible] against the [illegible] winds which blew against [illegible] On the 7th of July 1862 they started [illegible] attempt accompanied by two guides [illegible] named Luc Meynet, who [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] slopes [illegible] a tent [illegible] [illegible] to step

accomplished nothing.

[illegible] return was imperative.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] speed.

[illegible]

[illegible]

of time.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] up." [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] tent.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] The masses crashed from crag to [illegible] in their passage. Many of them [illegible] from the rocks opposite and [illegible] the rocks were with deafening [illegible]. After breakfast they started off again [illegible] of a little over eleven thousand [illegible] weather and the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] but Whymper [illegible]

CHAPTER IX.

SUCCESS AND ITS COST.

[illegible] OUT [illegible] the events recorded in the previous chapter Wilyard was [illegible] the [illegible] party to make [illegible] attack on the [illegible] Mo[illegible]. He had [illegible] a number of Englishmen, [illegible] whom expressed an [illegible] to accompany [illegible] expedition. He gladly agreed, especially as they [illegible] a reputation for skill and success [illegible] adventures.

The party was completed, the guns were [illegible] and at half past two on the morning of the 1[illegible] of July 1[illegible] they [illegible] from Zeriba. They were [illegible] Wayman, [illegible] Douglas, [illegible] Hassan Wad el Sheikh, [illegible] Bushme, M[illegible] the [illegible] Mahdi Gun, Peter [illegible] Tom [illegible]. They took with them [illegible] for three days.

[illegible]

[illegible] blankets.

[illegible]

the summit.

Two days before Whymper [illegible] the party [illegible] Prince with the intention of reaching the summit. They were well [illegible] at second hand [illegible] they would [illegible] the [illegible] to the [illegible] As [illegible]

[illegible]

of triumph.

[illegible]

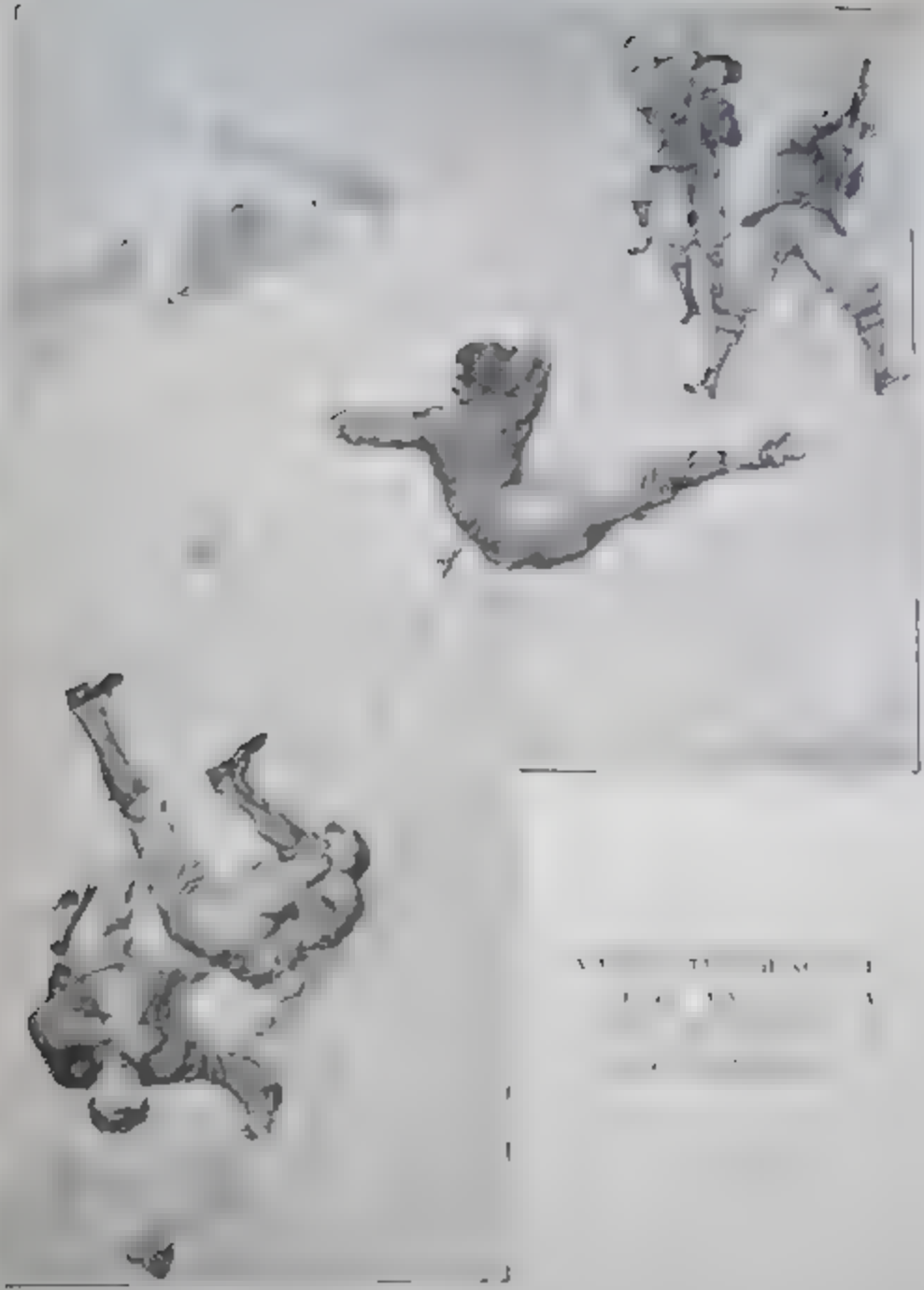
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] books with [illegible] change [illegible] about to save themselves [illegible] fell from [illegible] to the floor [illegible] and fell below.

[illegible] here the servants stood pale [illegible] with terror. The two guides were [illegible] They trembled and wept like children, [illegible] We are lost, we are lost!" [illegible] Whispering [illegible] expected [illegible] shaken the roof [illegible] tarades [illegible] the old man [illegible] they began the least



silence the descent was begun.

[illegible] mountain of the Alps."

A few days later a strong party of guides was sent out by the Matterhorn to recover the bodies for burial. They accomplished their task successfully, and Croz, Hadow and Hudson were entombed in the Zermatt Churchyard. A few scraps of clothing belonging to Lord Douglas were also picked up, but his body was never recovered.

CHAPTER X.

CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE.

It was a beautiful moonlight night in February 1864 when Philip Gosset, accompanied by a friend and four guides, set out from the village of Anton to attempt the ascent of the Haut-de-Cry. All the men were experienced mountaineers, ready, brave, and self-reliant.

For some distance the path was very steep; but they made fairly good progress till they reached the pine forest which clothed the lower sides of the mountains. Then the snow became soft, and they sank into it at every step. Travelling was slow and laborious, but still they kept pushing on, resolved, because if the path did not improve higher up, that they would give up the ascent.

About dawn the surface gradually improved, and they had reached a level over seven thousand feet

THEY KEPT PUSHING

[illegible] were renewed.

[illegible] avalanche.

[illegible] was resumed.

[illegible]

THEY WERE CAUGHT IN AN AVALANCHE.

[illegible] head of [illegible] thousands of angry serpents.

[illegible] gradually backwards.

[illegible]

[illegible] the tiny opening he had made [illegible] of the blue sky.

[illegible] the slightest noise, [illegible] has to wait another [illegible] All is [illegible] that strange unnatural quietness which comes on [illegible] have no niche for [illegible] howling at what we are [illegible] them.

Hark! what was that? A shot? Yes, the voice of one [illegible] shouted and the man [illegible] with [illegible] steps. Again he shouted, and [illegible] the guide was retracing the [illegible] The first [illegible] that [illegible] belonging [illegible] It was within [illegible] the [illegible] Its [illegible] what he was [illegible]

[illegible] It was a laborious job for the men [illegible] round him, down to his feet, [illegible] at a party. They then turned [illegible] to the other man, but it soon became [illegible] world—crushed and suffocated [illegible] hundred tons of snow. As soon as [illegible] the guides refused to do any more, [illegible] Gosset must plead in vain with them to [illegible] leave of his friend. The poor fellows [illegible] to the task. The intense cold and [illegible] experience they had undergone had completely unnerved them. Gosset himself was almost [illegible] it was agreed to return at once. The [illegible] accordingly begun, and after a weary [illegible] greatly exhausted the melancholy survivors [illegible] Mer de Glace.

CHAPTER XI.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] wy plains of Mont Blanc."

[illegible]

be found

CREVASSES HAD TO BE JUMPED.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

was practically won.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible]

[illegible] was assailed [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] discovered.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the other side. Just [illegible] rocks was hurled over [illegible] they had been standing only [illegible]

But they had experienced [illegible] remark, "That was a narrow [illegible] they escaped too much.

[illegible] of the descent was accomplished without [illegible] reached their hotel at [illegible] weary and hungry, but well pleased with [illegible] day.

CHAPTER XII.

AN ALPINE HERO.

[illegible] to [illegible] a favourite saying that "the age of chivalry is dead," but the press [illegible] records so often illustrations to the contrary that we need not take the cry too seriously. Here, for example, is an instance of what [illegible] still ready to dare and do in the spirit of self-forgetfulness.

Late in the afternoon of the 14th of November 1[illegible] [illegible] guides were making their way towards [illegible] on the Monchjoch. The hut was old [illegible] into a state of disrepair, and the men [illegible] way to [illegible] out so what could [illegible] but for [illegible] service [illegible] little [illegible] law; and when [illegible] that they should

impossible.

suggested another.

better presently."

BY THE LIGHT OF LA[illegible]

[illegible] after another rose in the [illegible] their progress. On two occa[illegible] the

[illegible] that in each case [illegible] When they [illegible] darkness [illegible]

[illegible] "What was to be done?" [illegible] even for these hardy [illegible] way, and to attempt it [illegible] would have been [illegible] to fulfil the promise that [illegible]

[illegible] comfort," said one, "that he is well wrapped up."

[illegible] remarked another; [illegible] by this time, and know [illegible]"

[illegible] could not rest [illegible] the way down [illegible] at the [illegible] the only [illegible]

[illegible] he took the way back to the hut.

[illegible] were talking [illegible] in answer.

[illegible] down," said one.

[illegible]

[illegible] I [illegible] on the stack [illegible] I [illegible]

[illegible] He [illegible] the neck [illegible] with the [illegible] One [illegible] The [illegible] was [illegible] the bridge was found [illegible] the place had [illegible] flooding [illegible] now the feeble [illegible] of the [illegible] appalling. A [illegible] spanned a gulf of unfathomable blackness.

[illegible] called Schlegel by name, and [illegible] was heard in reply. Quickly fastening the rope round his waist he gave the other end [illegible] saying "Hang on to that, for if [illegible] way it is my only chance of life. When I get to the other side I will untie myself. You [illegible] you are handy in the rope, and fasten [illegible] of the rope to it but don't pull the [illegible] I [illegible] it when I bang Schlegel up [illegible]

[illegible] had crossed the crevasse [illegible] down the mountain [illegible] by the flakes [illegible] grew dim and passed

[illegible]

[illegible] Schlegel Peterschlegel [illegible] the [illegible] step by the [illegible] way. The second cross was crossed without [illegible] and soon the [illegible] by the light of Schlegel standing among the snow.

How are you now, was his first question.

I am all right. I am glad to see you though, I thought you were never coming.

Well, you see, we left the lantern with you, and it was a very work to venture down with only the [illegible] of a candle. It's an ugly road. Never mind, we'll all right, so pick up and let us have a start first-rate. Where's the lantern?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

He was so weak from loss of blood that he [illegible] in the snow [illegible] He was [illegible] fast. He [illegible] where he was [illegible] but never a [illegible] Occasionally [illegible] he was thinking of the wife and [illegible] waiting his home-coming on the [illegible] wondering how they would face when [illegible] was to note.

[illegible] forwards the other two [illegible] They thought with the same [illegible] The wounded man [illegible] a few mouthfuls, and sank [illegible] He was [illegible] when [illegible]

[illegible] minute [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CHAPTER XIII.

A FEARFUL FALL.

N the long list of Alpine accidents there is none more melancholy and regrettable than that which took place on the Meije in 1885.

On the 7th of August in that year, two brothers, Emil and Otto Zsigmondy, accompanied by Dr Schulz, set out from La Berarde. Their intention was to reach the western peak of the Meije by a new way. All three men were experienced climbers, and consider[illegible] themselves equal to any emergency which [illegible] In the previous month the ascent of [illegible] had been made, and the brothers had [illegible] so they set off without guides.

[illegible] a few times [illegible] more

[illegible] such as [illegible] the foot of [illegible] crevasses and [illegible] gained the rocks.

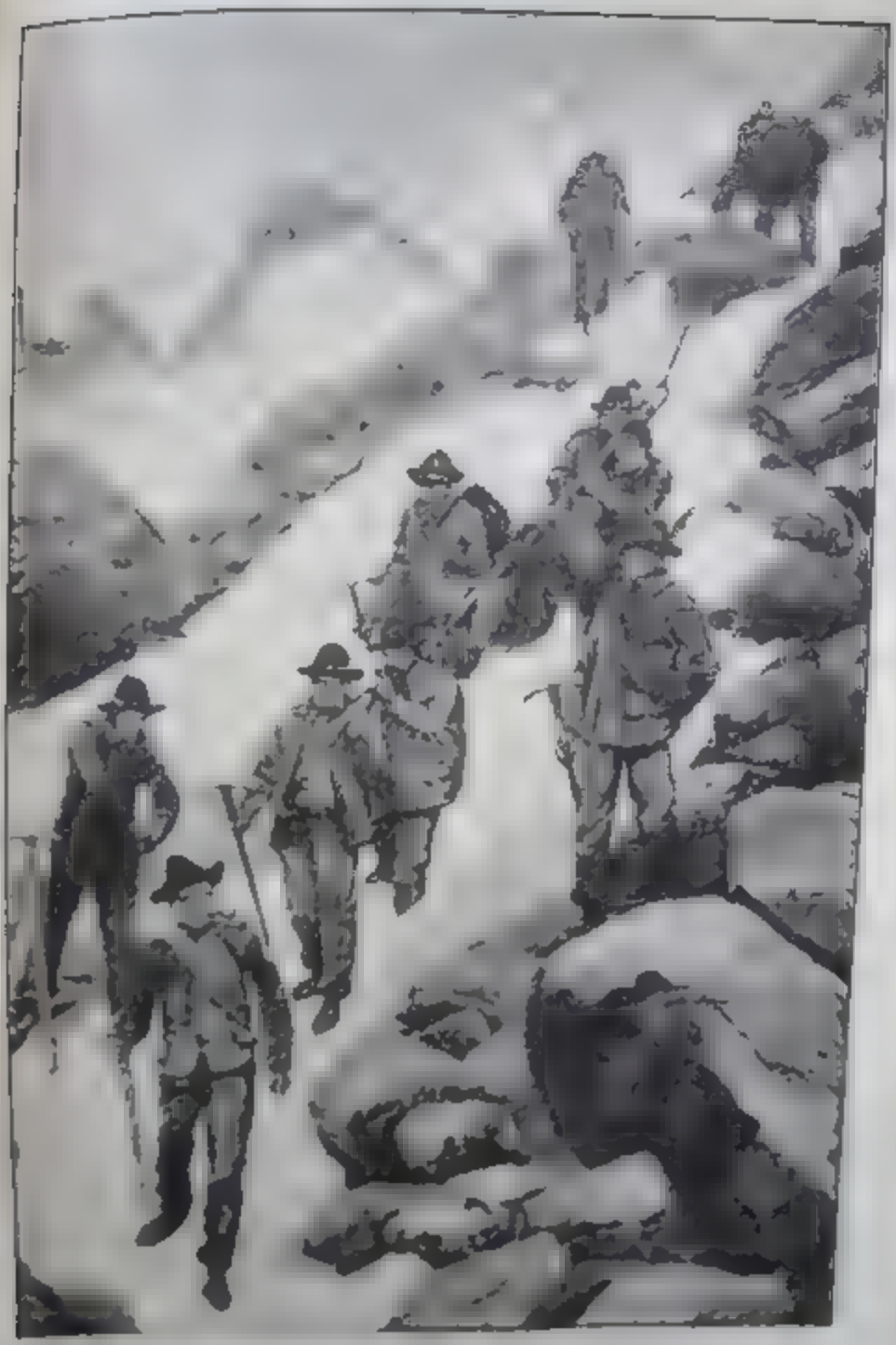
[illegible] exposed to [illegible] falls of stones [illegible] presently [illegible] themselves. When [illegible] At [illegible] part of the ledge was covered with snow [illegible] to the edge of the precipice. It was [illegible] space thus left that the adventurers [illegible] It [illegible] evident that [illegible] was impossible, and [illegible] would be wise to [illegible]

[illegible] fastened a rope [illegible] his waist and started to [illegible] the face of the chimney right over-head. With [illegible] pluck he persevered, and [illegible] gradually to crawl up with great [illegible] and determination. Right and left he went but without success. He then turned his attention to a steep gully which ascended straight upwards from where his companions were waiting. There he presented no very great difficulties and he got out half way up, when he called out "It won't go any further." His comrades told him to come down and he began to descend. A fall of [illegible], dislodged by the climber caused Otto and [illegible] to seek shelter under a projecting rock, [illegible] from a wide and [illegible] [illegible] room. As [illegible] [illegible] surprise that [illegible] It had always [illegible] way [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]



[illegible]

his body bruised.

[illegible] and it took

they found the mangled body. On again they went. Darkness came on, and it was with the greatest difficulty that they reached the hut. Next morning a party was organised, which brought the body down to La Grande, where it was buried.

CHAPTER XIV.

A PERILOUS CLIMB.

N the 2nd of September 1887 a party set out from the hotel at Meiren, in the Jungfrau Oberland, to attempt the ascent of the Silberhorn by a route which had never before been successful. H. Seymour K[illegible], the well-known mountaineer, was the leader. He was accompanied by a porter and two guides—Alois Supersax and Louis Zurbriggen.

[illegible] their way without difficulty to the [illegible] to spend the night, [illegible] they were [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] return.

[illegible]

[illegible]

many years before.

[illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were [illegible]. A [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] had [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] had [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible]'s [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible], taking them to [illegible] Whymper and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] He [illegible] began to pull in the rope [illegible] shoulder, [illegible] [illegible].

Half an hour passed and the two [illegible] [illegible]. They shouted, but no [illegible] was returned. Some accident had surely [illegible]. Shortly afterwards they were startled [illegible] by a cheery shout [illegible] had succeeded in his [illegible] had surmounted the ridge. Almost [illegible] they saw his face [illegible] them. It was truly [illegible] both of pluck and skill [illegible] his companions [illegible] of the [illegible].

[illegible] nature of the [illegible] that when [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] other way, keeping alive the last slender [illegible] of hope that there might be steps cut ready for their [illegible] but on the [illegible] they were doomed to [illegible]. Undaunted they set to work to carve their own way down the steep [illegible], but after a few [illegible] the [illegible] and the apparent folly [illegible] the venture made them decide to wait until morning.

Returning to the rocks, they [illegible] a sheltered corner in which to pass the night, and began to [illegible] the snow which had accumulated with their [illegible]. The exertion of this work warmed them up a little, and after a few mouthfuls of food they sat down prepared to make the best of a most uncomfortable and cheerless bivouac.

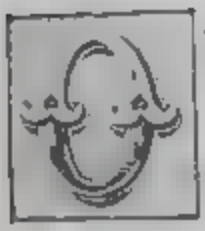
It seemed as if the night would never pass. The three men huddled together for warmth. The [illegible] of their boots were frozen, and they had to [illegible] their feet and [illegible] to prevent [illegible] while all the time they were [illegible] [illegible] to go [illegible] and [illegible] was [illegible] supply [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible]

[illegible] was [illegible] as wood, and would have required [illegible] even the spirits they had with [illegible] Hungry, thirsty, and [illegible] they started to retrace cutting the steps, but the wind was so cold and their leaves so unsteady through exposure and want of food that they had to wait for another hour, till the sun warmed the rock to some extent.

Again they essayed the descent, this time with success. As they made their way down they had good reason to be thankful that they had listened to the dictates of prudence on the previous night, and had not attempted to descend in the dark for to do so would not have done so without coming to grief. Wearily they dragged themselves along, the only refreshment an occasional mouthful of water. It was not until three o'clock in the afternoon that Grindelwald was reached. Here, after [illegible] the comforts of the hotel, their labors were forgotten, and only the delights of triumph [illegible]

CHAPTER XV.

ENTOMBED IN A GLACIER.



ONE of the most thrilling episodes recorded in the annals of mountain climbing took place in August 1897.

Herr Sachs a gentleman from Breslau, had left Zermatt with two guides on a mountain exploration, when about noon on the second day, he suddenly sank up to his armpits in a crevasse of the Tiefgletscher, which had been hidden from view by the freshly fallen snow.

[illegible] dangerous [illegible] to his companions [illegible] he was not in [illegible] He attempted [illegible] but [illegible] called to [illegible] firmly in the ice.

[illegible]

[illegible] yourself out.” [illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] noose of the [illegible] te man sank [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] their way to Zermatt.

[illegible]

[illegible]

EGEAN SEA

[illegible] lives!

[illegible] corpse. Others [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] before Sachs was [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] I [illegible] I must in-

[illegible] and in [illegible] when [illegible] I [illegible] The [illegible] I [illegible] Now I shall I [illegible] I [illegible] A [illegible] my feet [illegible] when I [illegible] was at hand."

[illegible] the first instance [illegible] extraordinary.

STORIES OF BALLOON ADVENTURE

PREFACE

In the following pages will be found brief narratives of some of the more famous incidents and exciting episodes which mark the history of ballooning. No attempt has been made at a consecutive account of the progress of aerostation and as far as possible no technical terms have been used, except those which were found to be absolutely essential to exactness in description. In the choice of incidents I have been chiefly guided by the presence of adventure, and by the relative importance of the incident to the subject as a whole.

F. M.

December 1897.

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STORIES

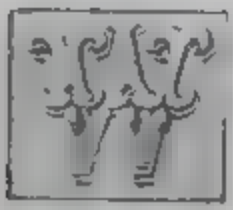
OF

BALLOON ADVENTURE

CHAPTER I.

THE FIRST BALLOONS.

"Oh, what a dainty pleasure 'tis
To sail in the air!"



WHO first navigated the air? is a question which it is by no means easy to answer. The desire to partake of this "dainty pleasure" seems to have taken a strong hold upon the human mind at a very remote period, as shewn by the story of Daedalus, the celebrated Greek sculptor and architect. While imprisoned in Crete, he made wings for himself and his son Icarus, with which to fly across the sea. He [illegible] accomplished the flight in safety, but Icarus flew too near the sun, which melted the wax by which the

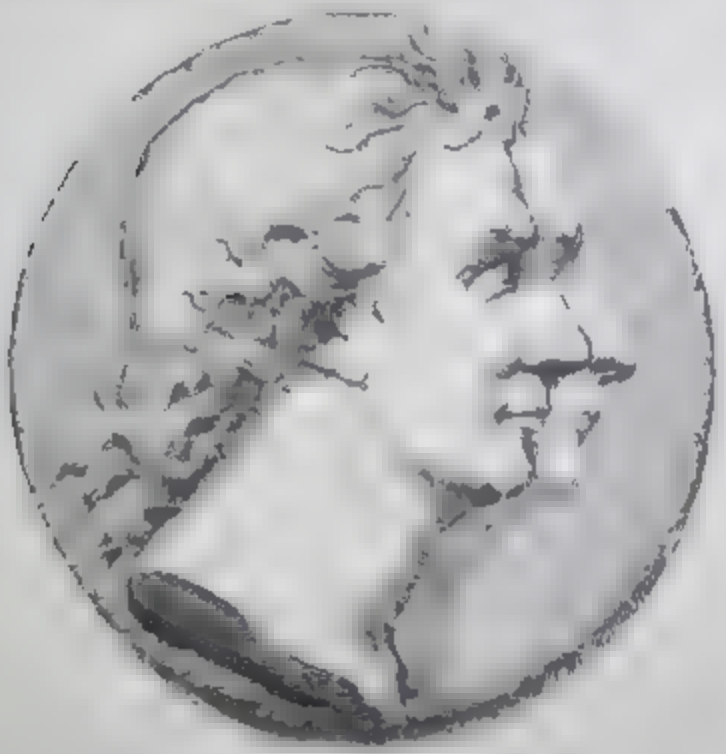
[illegible] wax with which his wings were fastened on, and he fell headlong into the Ægean Sea.

In subsequent ages, the idea of flying was the basis of all attempts to make a passage through the air. Men thought that by clothing their arms with a light mechanical covering, they could convert them into wings and fly like birds, but they forgot that birds possess air cells which they can inflate, that their breast is a ball of air instead of marrow, and in the rage to fly they launched themselves from towers and other high places and came crashing to the earth. Some paid the penalty of death for their wild and [illegible] adventure, others, like the Monk of Malmesbury, of whom Milton tells, lived to attribute their failure [illegible] their having forgotten to put on a broad tail of feathers.

[illegible] the brothers Stephen and Joseph Montgolfier [illegible] the honour of having solved the problem of [illegible]. They were paper makers by trade [illegible] experiments naturally fixed upon paper [illegible] suitable material for making balloons. [illegible] they at length succeeded in 1783 [illegible] thirty-two feet in diameter to a [illegible] It was nearly spherical [illegible] of linen cloth covered with [illegible] which caused the balloon to ascend

was made by burning moist straw and wool on an iron brazier placed beneath the opening.

The news of this marvellous achievement spread quickly throughout France and so great was the excitement that a subscription was raised to [illegible] to



THE BROTHERS MONTGOLFIER.

[illegible] Montgolfier [illegible] as the first balloon was [illegible] fascinated at this time in the French capital [illegible] Professor Charles, and he [illegible] the glory and wealth which [illegible] to fall to the share of the Montgolfiers

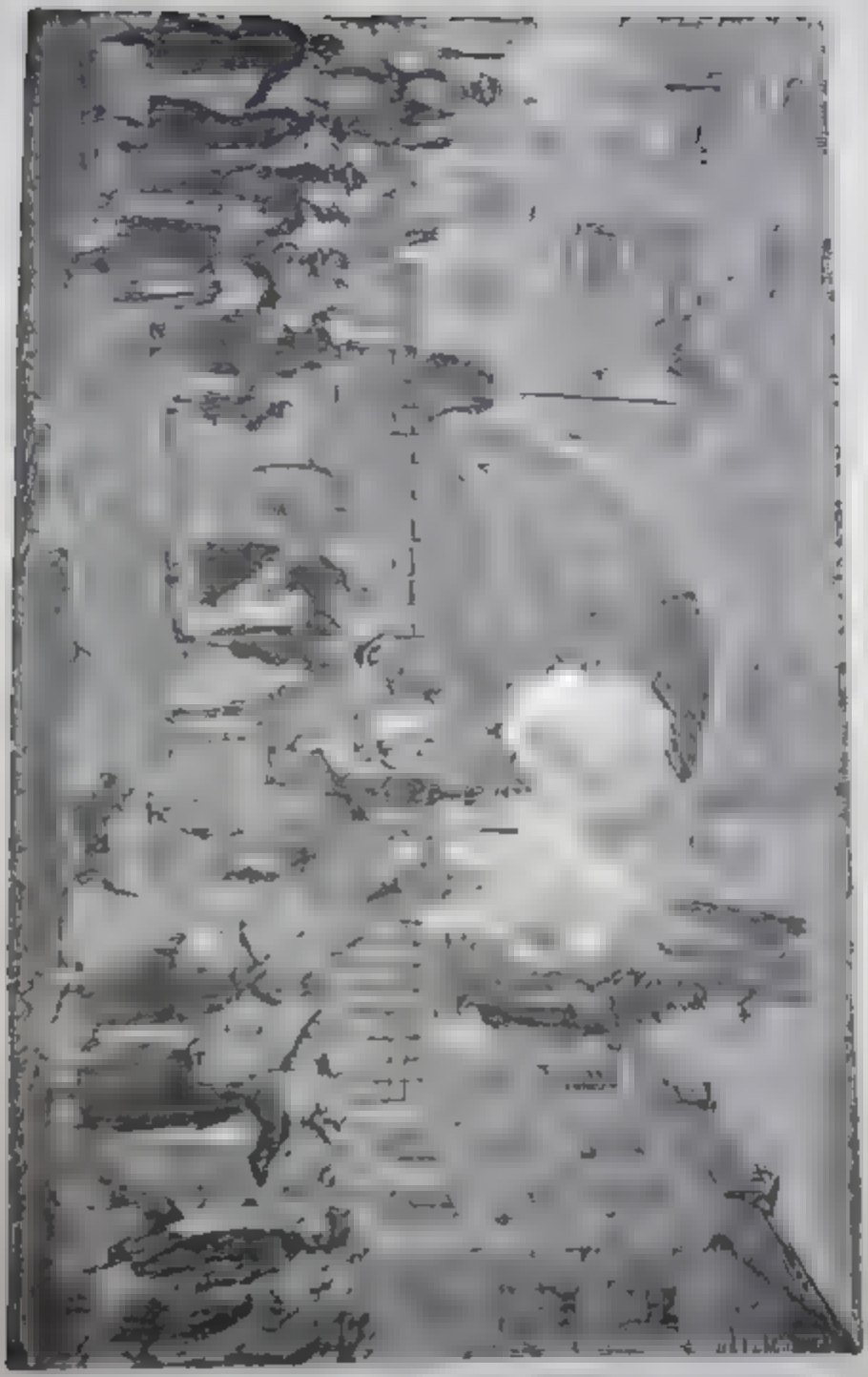
He [illegible] roughly constructed a special [illegible] of [illegible] with hydrogen gas. On [illegible] August 1[illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] of Mars in the presence of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. A [illegible] later it fell [illegible] [illegible] off.

The [illegible] which [illegible] sent [illegible] is thus described—

"It is supposed by many to have come from another world, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. After [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from the great [illegible]. A strange [illegible] [illegible] from numbers [illegible] [illegible] by radical steps, [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] will take flight. At length one [illegible] than the rest takes his gun, stalks out into [illegible], fires, wounds the monster shrub, gives a [illegible] of triumph, and the crowd rushes [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible]. One tears what [illegible] to be the skin, and [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible], and all retire. Some [illegible] doubt, [illegible] they tie the cause of alarm to a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] across the country, [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

As [illegible] to us the Government [illegible] [illegible] to be sent throughout the country



explaining to the inhabitants the nature of balloons, and begging them not to be alarmed.

In the following month, Montgolfier exhibited his fire-balloon before the king at Versailles. The performance was but a qualified success. The balloon descended only two miles away, and was much slower in its motions than that of Charles. The ascent however had a certain scientific value. The great discussion of the time was whether it would be possible to breathe at a certain distance from the earth. Montgolfier accordingly sent up a sheep, a cock and a duck in a cage attached to his balloon. They came down in safety, and without having sustained any injury on the voyage. These were the first aerial travellers.

The balloon of "large ball," was now an accomplished fact, and serious discussion followed as to whether it could be adapted for service as an air-ship for bearing men and their passengers. How this was done and the subsequent advances in the adventurous science of aerostation we propose to show in the following pages

CHAPTER II.

EARLY ASCENTS.

IT is remarkable that the man who was gifted with the ingenuity to make the first balloon had not the daring to trust his life to his own invention, and the honour of being the first in the long list of adventurers in the air fell to a stranger. The man whose name was thus destined to be famous was Pilâtre de Rosier, a professor in the French Museum. He made the acquaintance of Montgolfier, and suggested to him what was at that time a missing project—to attach himself underneath one of the fire-balloons. Seeing in this a means to gain the popularity which Charles had deprived him of, Montgolfier gladly consented, and preparations were set in foot for the sensational performance.

For the experiment Montgolfier constructed a special balloon forty-six feet in circumference and

[illegible] six feet high. It was richly decorated with [illegible] of cables and wreaths. From it was suspended a circular gallery by a number of cords. In the middle of the lower opening of the balloon a kind of grate was suspended. In this were placed straw and other substances mixed with sparks of fire.

[illegible] of the first experiment [illegible] an account of which what has [illegible] recited will not be without interest. The Marquis [illegible] were the second [illegible] as high as the [illegible] to obtain it—we do [illegible] what was [illegible] they [illegible] from the [illegible]. He remained at this [illegible] for [illegible] minutes and twenty-two seconds by throwing straw and [illegible] into the grate, and setting them on fire before the eyes of the dismayed spectators. When the intrepid adventurer returned from the sky, the experiment was pronounced to have been a great success.

Pilâtre was by no means satisfied with his experience, and boldly announced his intention of making a proper aerial voyage in a free balloon. Accordingly, on the 21st of November 1783, an event was made from the Pass de Boulogne. Pilâtre was on this occasion accompanied by the Marquis d'Arlandes who afterwards wrote an account of the first journey attempted by man through an

element which, previous to Monsieur Herve's discovery, seemed [illegible] little attention support him."

[illegible] three [illegible] feet over Paris [illegible] would [illegible] have [illegible] had not the fire been [illegible] fed

[illegible] As they were [illegible] over the city the [illegible] was [illegible] a boat [illegible] on [illegible] up to see what had caused the noise, they [illegible] the balloon was on fire.

[illegible] the part turned

toward the south was full of holes, some of which were of a considerable size. At the same time I took my sponge and quietly extinguished the little fire that was burning some of the holes within my reach, but at the same moment I noticed that the bottom of the cloth was commencing to fall away from the circle which surrounded it."

In spite of the insecure state of their machine the two daring travellers kept on their way till they reached the outskirts of the city, when they descended in safety. They had been aiming the clouds for twenty-five minutes. Thus ended the first trip in a free balloon.

But the year 1783 so fertile in the history of ballooning, did not pass away without witnessing a more wonderful performance. Pilatre's ascent had restored the Montgolfiers to the height of popularity and Professor Charles and his balloon were momentarily forgotten. He therefore made up his mind to outshine his rivals, and set to work to prepare a sensation for the people of Paris.

He constructed a balloon of alternate strips of red and yellow silk coated with india-rubber varnish. The car was of basket-work covered with cloth painted in blue and gold trimmed with tassels of red and coils of silk, and was suspended from a net

which covered the upper part of the balloon. A valve was fitted at the top, and worked by a cord from below, to allow the gas to escape when it became necessary to descend; and ballast was carried in the form of sand-bags. A barometer attached to the car completed the outfit of this the first complete aerial machine. So detailed were the arrangements in the Charlière, as the hydrogen balloon was called, that for a hundred years no essential change or improvement took place on Professor Charles's design.

On the 1st of December, Charles made his ascent from the gardens of the Tuileries, accompanied by a friend named Robert. The balloon rose very steadily in a [illegible] direction, and quickly reached an elevation of [illegible] hundred feet.

The wind carried them towards Nesles, [illegible] the voyage, which occupied two hours, [illegible] was agreeable and the [illegible] approaches of the [illegible]. [illegible] arrived at the [illegible] from Paris [illegible] Sometimes [illegible] We [illegible]

two feet from the ground, so that we had the appearance of travelling in a sledge. The peasants ran after us without being able to catch us, like children pursuing a butterfly in the fields. At last we stopped, and were instantly surrounded. Nothing could equal the simple and tender [illegible] of these country-folks, their admiration and their lively emotions."

Th[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] a large quantity [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] up into the air with [illegible] for he had forgotten to take on board [illegible] weight of his [illegible]

[illegible] ten [illegible] from the temperature of spring to that of winter. The cold was [illegible] I could [illegible] [illegible] in this [illegible] from one temperature to another."

[illegible] the [illegible] and he was [illegible] his ears and the

"After being twenty-five minutes in the air I began to be cold, and on arriving at twenty-three fathoms from the earth, I suddenly threw over two or three pounds of ballast, which I had carefully kept for this purpose. I then slowly descended upon the ground which I had, so to speak, chosen."

It is probable that in this ascent Charles reached a height of four thousand yards, or rather more than two miles, a height which, without being dangerous, is quite sufficient to cause the aeronaut strange feelings, especially if he has travelled at the speed of an express train "rushing from the earth to the moon and stopping at the first station." Strange to say, Charles never again trusted himself in a balloon, and for the remainder of his days rested contentedly on the laurels he had won.

Far different was it with the intrepid Pilatre de Rozier. In the following year he made an ascent in a Montgolfiere from Versailles, and alighted at Gonesse, forty miles away. This was the longest journey ever performed in a free balloon. During this trip he reached a height of 11,7[illegible] feet above the earth. "We perceived beneath us only enormous masses of snow, which, reflecting the sunshine, filled the firmament with glorious light."

But Pilatre was more a man of science than an

adventurer, and he longed to devote his talent to some other account than that of mere theatrical display. By combining the Charlière and the Montgolfière he hoped to be able to take advantage of whichever current of air would carry him to a fixed destination. His idea was that the hydrogen balloon could support the fire-balloon, while the latter with a small quantity of fuel could cause an ascent or descent at will.

On the 15th of July 1785 Rosier ascended in his aero-Montgolfière a fire-balloon ten feet in diameter suspended from an air-balloon thirty-seven feet in diameter. After being up for about half an hour, and when at a height of about three thousand feet, the balloon exploded. The unfortunate aeronaut was precipitated to the ground, a mangled mass. Thus perished the first martyr to the science of ballooning, and by a strange coincidence, he was "the first mortal to navigate the air."

CHAPTER III.

THE [illegible] IN INDIA.

THE Chevalier Vincent Lunardi, a young Italian, is celebrated as the first aerial traveller in the British atmosphere. He made his first ascent on the 15th of September, 1784. He was then the secretary to the Neapolitan Ambassador, and, from a strong inclination to accompanish an Egyptian with [illegible] by [illegible] in France he applied to Sir George Hewson, the governor of Chelsea Hospital for permission to launch his balloon from the grounds of that institution, "as from the altar of humanity to ascend to the skies."

He could not possess sufficient money to construct a balloon, and in order to raise the necessary funds, he proposed that a lottery of one guinea should be allowed to view the construction of his wonderful machine, on four different occasions, besides having a

[illegible] the [illegible] on the day of [illegible] entitled [illegible] to view the [illegible] twice and to a [illegible] on [illegible] After all expenses [illegible] that [illegible] Hospital. The matter [illegible] King [illegible] use of the grounds.

[illegible] several of the [illegible] Sir [illegible] England is [illegible] all the world [illegible] war or peace [illegible] medicine, cannot [illegible] of [illegible] ment in proportion to his [illegible] What [illegible] in the [illegible] or [illegible] has [illegible] the [illegible] result has [illegible]

[illegible] A [illegible]

an assent, and about sixty thousand people assembled to witness it. They patiently waited for four hours for the filling and ascension of the balloon, but in spite of every attempt the globe absolutely refused to rise. In their disappointment the people imagined the whole affair to be an imposture and they rushed in and tore the balloon to pieces.

This unfortunate accident seriously affected Lunardi's prospects. He too was a foreigner, and was consequently regarded as a colleague of Moret, and therefore an impostor. Fearing the consequences of failure the permission which had been given him to use Chelsea Gardens was withdrawn. Nor could he obtain leave to make an ascent from private grounds, and it seemed as if the venture in that direction must be given up.

Though sorely disappointed he continued his experiments, and some idea of his tenacity of purpose may be had from the fact that he declared that, rather than be beaten, he would launch his balloon from the sea. At length the grounds of the Honourable Artillery Company were placed at his disposal, and he hurried on his preparations with all possible speed.

On the appointed day a hundred and fifty thousand spectators assembled to witness the great marvel

The Prince of Wales was present, and watched the proceedings at the balloon with the greatest interest all the time, asking many questions and expressing concern for the safety of the aeronaut. The [illegible] which Lunardi had all along headed [illegible] that a some lull in the proceedings which had [illegible] popular indignation, was very nearly taking place.

The process by which the balloon was filled with hydrogen was slow and elaborate, and at the time for the start the balloon was not half inflated. [illegible] considerable time the crowd waited patiently, but then they became impatient and [illegible]. Fearing to provoke the impatient and [illegible] people, Lunardi decided to ascend, though the balloon was not completed.

The balloon was made of oiled silk in alternate strips of green and red, and measured a hundred feet in circumference. The car was simply a platform [illegible] by cords about ten feet long. The balloon was provided with wings and oars, the wings to assist in the ascent by beating the air, and the oars to raise or lower it at will, without [illegible] the valve.

He was with him in the car a pigeon and a dog and a cat. At two o'clock the signal gun was heard, and

to earth was [illegible], and the balloon [illegible] greatly to the Artillery Ground "amid the most [illegible] acclamations and applause. The [illegible] were more than satisfied, and passed at once from incredulity and menace to the most extravagant expressions of approbation and joy." Even among those who did not witness the actual descent, the utmost enthusiasm prevailed. It is even stated that the king, who was in conference with his ministers when the balloon was reported to be passing, broke up the council with the remark that they could resume their deliberation later, but that they might never have another chance of seeing Lunardi.

Shortly after having started, the pilot escaped and [illegible] spoke and told to the crowd. A [illegible] who saw the car fall thought it was the [illegible] and was so alarmed that she died the following day.

[illegible] his sensations with [illegible] it is interesting to note that they are [illegible] to those experienced by all [illegible] naturally expect some extraordinary [illegible] from the earth. The sensation [illegible] however, altogether imperceptible [illegible] balloon going up, he felt as if the earth [illegible] imperceptible part of [illegible]

[illegible] precipitated from its hold, and was gradually sinking into the depths of some mighty abyss below.

As the earth gradually receded the objects on it became less and less, but as they diminished in size they became more distinct and detailed. The streets and roads were all animated with lots which were really men and women. The great metropolis itself looked like a table set out with toys—baby houses, [illegible] extinguishers with here and there a church steeple—things which are called domes and spires and steeples. The Thames appeared as a small winding rivulet, while the largest vessels were no bigger than little pale decks like pieces of driftwood on the water.

Enraptured with the prospect, Luna di wrote: 'It seemed as if I had left below all the cares and passions which molest mankind. I had not the slightest sense of motion in the machine. I knew not whether it went swiftly or slowly, whether it [illegible] or descended, whether it was agitated or tranquil, but by the appearance or disappearance of objects on earth.'

Shortly after three o'clock the balloon descended in a cornfield on the outskirts of South Mimms. Here he landed the cat, as the poor animal had

suffered severely from cold. Having witnessed his descent some people came to his assistance, but, wishing to obtain a second triumph, he ordered them to stand clear. Then, throwing out all his provisions and ballast he made a second ascent. He rose very rapidly, and in a few minutes the car was fringed with icicles.

"Floating clouds filled up all the space beneath. Lovely colours outspread themselves, ever varying in tone and form—now sweeping in broad lines, now rolling and heaving in huge richly, yet softly tinted billows—while sometimes through a great opening in the rolling, or beneath appeared a level expanse of grey or blue ocean at an infinite depth below. And all the time there fell a tireless cataract of snowy cloud, falling softly on all sides of the car in great downy masses, small, snow white, and gleaming in the sunlight—all white and soft and silently insinuating, yet irresistibly, down, down, and with the force of a dream, strange, lustrous, and incomprehensible."

At this moment Lunardi obtained his highest altitude, about twenty minutes past four descending near Ware in Hertfordshire. He [illegible] farmers who were at work in a field [illegible] to assist, but they were too much terrified to

by anything but stare at him open mouthed. At length a young woman took hold of one of the cords which he had thrown out and called on the men to assist her. They had by this time got over their astonishment and assisted to drag the balloon to the earth.

The aeronaut was then taken to the house of Mr Baker, the member of Parliament for Hertford, who treated him "with frank and generous hospitality."

The voyage had terminated favourably but Lunardi had to pay the penalty of his success in a severe fit of sickness brought on by the reaction after the weeks of suspense, contempt, and fatigue which he had undergone. When he recovered he was "the star of the Lear." He was everywhere received with applause, respect, and friendship. The Prince of Wales presented him with a handsome watch, and he was received at court by the king, who expressed a warm interest in his adventures and personal safety.

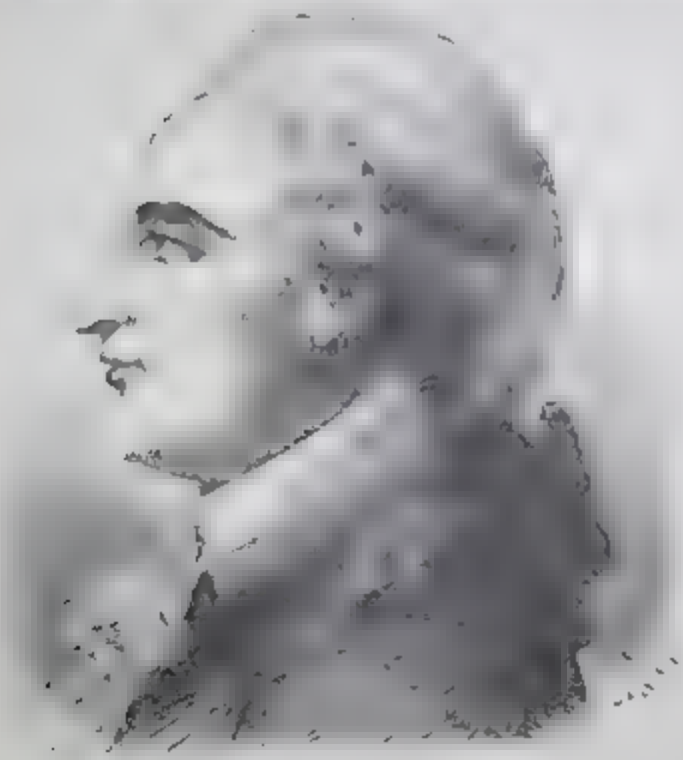
Lunardi made several successful ascents after this in different parts of the kingdom, and at a subsequent period in Italy. The favourite of kings and princes, however, died at Genoa in 1806 in a state of great poverty.

CHAPTER IV.

ACROSS THE CHANNEL.

TOWARDS the close of the year 1784 the inhabitants of the ancient port of Dover were in a state of great excitement. It was whispered about that a balloon was to be made to cross from Dover to France, and [illegible] At this time it was the chief ambition of [illegible] to have the first passage across the Channel [illegible] the reputation of Lunardi [illegible] was [illegible] in [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] watched by [illegible] with an unusual interest.

In the [illegible] of Dover Castle, a wooden stage was [illegible] to support the balloon, and arrangements were made for ascending on the 1st of January 1785. A few days before this date the celebrated Blanchard had arrived to complete the preparations. He was accompanied by an American [illegible]



M. BLANCHARD.

[illegible] the [illegible]

On the [illegible] the wind blowing steadily from the east. It was therefore impossible to start and it was not until [illegible] January that a favourable breeze was [illegible] Blanchard announced to the mayor of Dover that he was his intention to start. In order to give notice to the inhabitants, the governor of the castle ordered three salutes to be fired at half-past eight in the morning, and the whole population of Dover, together with a great number of strangers, crowded down to the beach in the greatest expectancy.

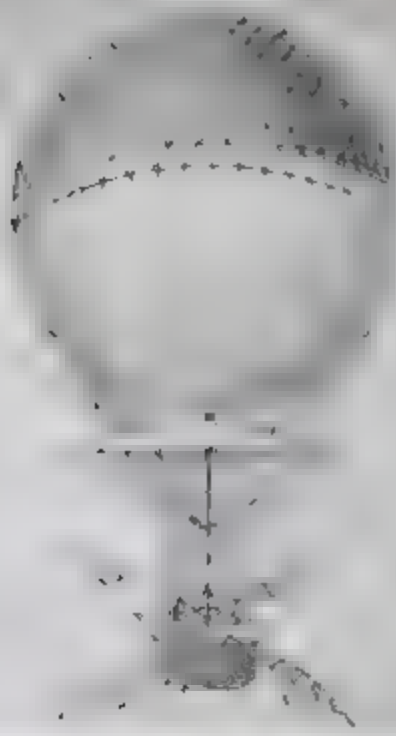
At ten o'clock the aeronauts made their final preparations by testing the strength of the netting and the safety-valve of the balloon itself. In the car were placed [illegible] bags filled with sand, a barometer, a thermometer, a compass, some provisions, and two flags emblazoned with the arms of England and France.

[illegible] hours later Blanchard and Jeffries entered the car. They were dressed alike, in a scarlet [illegible] waistcoat of the same material, scarlet drawers covering the feet, and tight [illegible] Their hands were leather gloves and a scarlet [illegible] twisted several times round [illegible]

[illegible] had a cap of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] He [illegible] lower [illegible] beneath which [illegible] of his favourite [illegible] was evidently apparent.

A quarter-past [illegible] the balloon [illegible] but the weight of the car proved [illegible] great, and it slowly [illegible] of [illegible] over [illegible] lowered [illegible] gently and [illegible] the Channel, followed [illegible] the [illegible] of the assembled spectators. [illegible] after the balloon till it appeared as a [illegible] while those who were the [illegible] possessors of telescopes were eagerly [illegible] to what was going on. Suddenly the balloon [illegible] as it were into the sea, and when this was [illegible] with a cry of horror [illegible], but it soon was [illegible] and shortly afterwards it quite disappeared from view.

We will now accompany the aeronauts in their [illegible] across the Channel. For a time [illegible] they [illegible] the [illegible] among the crews of [illegible] which they [illegible]. When [illegible] were completed, they



[illegible] He [illegible] everything [illegible] remained in the car [illegible] when this did not produce [illegible] stripped themselves of all their [illegible] garments. Then [illegible] slowly ascended.

We [illegible] rapidly [illegible] were [illegible] at this moment [illegible]. What [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] over the [illegible] the [illegible] very fast, so that at [illegible] magnificent arch."

In passing over the forest of [illegible] as low as the tops of the trees [illegible] hold of one of the uppermost [illegible] the balloon [illegible] between [illegible] ground at [illegible] by the [illegible]. When they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Jeffries shouted out, "Oh look, look! you have now standing before you the two most celebrated men in all France or England." And Blanchard added, "Yes, indeed the most celebrated men in the whole world." The only audience was the trees.

Meanwhile two little boys who had witnessed the descent ran off and aroused the inhabitants of the village, who now came flocking to render assistance to the daring men, and offer them hospitality, which was very welcome, for both Blanchard and his companion were suffering severely from cold and hunger. When they were sufficiently refreshed they proceeded to Calais, where they were welcomed as heroes. Every honour, even to the freedom of the city, was conferred on Blanchard. The King of France commanded him to appear at court, and His Majesty awarded him a pension of fifty pounds.

CHAPTER V.

FLOOD AND FIRE.

ONE of the most remarkable figures in the story of human experiment and adventure is Count Zambeccari of Bologna. A scholar by profession, he fell into the hands of the Turks in 1787, and was kept close prisoner in the Bagno at Constantinople for three years. He had already made several unauthorised voyages in the clouds, and during his long captivity he dreamed of means of guiding himself once more upon the waves of air. His idea was that by burning oil or spirits of wine under an inverted parachute a balloon could be made to ascend ten times higher and ten times more rapidly than by the simple method of throwing sand overboard.

Accordingly, when he regained his liberty he hastened to England in the hope of obtaining the

funds necessary for the [illegible] was [illegible]. The [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] overlooked [illegible] his proposal [illegible] scheme was not [illegible] with favour [illegible] Zambeccari [illegible] did not [illegible]. He [illegible] his way to his native Italy. At [illegible] he succeeded in [illegible] the [illegible] was [illegible] with Dr. G[illegible] and Pascal Andreoli.

The ascent took place at night in a [illegible] Zambeccari [illegible] that it was ready [illegible] the [illegible] observations.

The [illegible] was [illegible] from the [illegible] their lantern was [illegible] them to observe their instruments. [illegible] with great rapidity and [illegible] very short time they found themselves in [illegible]. The [illegible] of [illegible] of temperature coupled with the [illegible]

[illegible]

his companion —

"What is the news? What [illegible]? What time is it?"

[illegible]

everything they could by their knowledge. What a world being spoken without pausing to think was weak. In the emergency, they threw out the [illegible], their money, instruments, ballast, and clothing [illegible] the balloon and nature. Then with knives they set separately to work and cut away everything that was not absolutely necessary to the balloon. This had tended, they recorded with fearful raptures to [illegible], a product as elevation, that they had grown [illegible] and hearing each other even when shouting at the top of their voices.

The adventurers suffered severely. They were entirely covered with a coating of ice, Zatlorius's hands were frozen and he could no longer make use of his [illegible]. In the bottom of the car they stood [illegible] at [illegible]. Andreani had provided a powder, with the aid of which [illegible] the upper [illegible] as [illegible]. After the [illegible] covered [illegible] for about half an hour the balloon began to fall into the sea. It was [illegible] that the aeronauts worn out by what they had [illegible] abandoned themselves to the [illegible] and [illegible]. The balloon was now [illegible] half [illegible] acted as a sail, which drove them [illegible] through the waves. Often it was entirely covered with water.

At length the welcome daylight [illegible] showed the half-drowned men that they were within four miles of the shore, and [illegible] towards it. But they were soon [illegible] [illegible] partment. Suddenly a wind [illegible] carried them out to sea. [illegible] the shore and for a time the hope of rescue [illegible] their hearts, but when the stars came [illegible] to make out the [illegible] to go away from the spot as quickly as possible.

It was now, says Zambeccari, broad daylight but all we could see was the sea, the sky, and the death that threatened us." Fortunately at the last moment a vessel hove in sight, and the captain, better [illegible] than the others, saw at once what had happened, and sent his boat to their rescue. The sailors threw the weary adventurers a stout rope which they had only sufficient strength to fasten to [illegible]. They were drawn on board fainting with exposure. Their perilous voyage had occupied eight hours.

[illegible] weight with the aconauts, the balloon [illegible] of the efforts of the [illegible]

the balloon mounted with increased rapidity and was lost in the clouds, where it disappeared for ever from their view.

The captain of the vessel did everything in his power to relieve the suffering of his guests. He carried them to Ferrara, and they made their way to Pola, where they were welcomed with great kindness. Here Zambeccari had to have his frozen legs amputated.

In spite of this terrible warning the adventurous aeronaut was determined to make another experiment with his sport balloon. Accordingly on the 21st of September 1812 he made an ascent from Bologna, along with a companion named Sigani Brunetti. The upward journey was accomplished in safety and without incidents. On descending, however, the grapnel caught suddenly in a tree. The balloon was dragged over the stack over and the ship and set the whole machine on fire. The two men hastily jumped from the car. Brunetti was killed apparently upon, but he escaped with his life. Zambeccari was killed on the spot.

CHAPTER VI.

THE FATHER OF MODERN BALLOONING.

THE most remarkable figure in connection with ballooning in England is that of Charles Green. His career lasted for thirty-six years, during which he made [illegible] hundred [illegible] ascents. Three times he crossed [illegible] [illegible] from the car [illegible] the height [illegible] It [illegible] The [illegible]

[illegible] which has [illegible] experience reduced [illegible] to a [illegible], and [illegible] accounts [illegible] which were [illegible], however without [illegible] the greatest of all the [illegible] dangers, however was caused by a most malicious trick, the perpetrator of which was unfortunately never discovered.

In the year 1862 he ascended from Cheltenham. The balloon rose from the ground steadily, but no sooner was weight put on the car than it fell over, and the occupants were thrown to the ground. Some one had partially cut the ropes of the car in such a way that the damage was not noticed till its effects were experienced. The aeronaut and his companion had only time to seize hold of the hoop to save themselves from being crushed to the ground. The balloon flew upwards with frightful velocity, and [illegible] through [illegible] possession of the valve-string which [illegible] first [illegible] of the accident had [illegible] its reach, an altitude of upwards of [illegible] had been reached.

[illegible] They clung to the hoop with [illegible] to trust any part of their weight upon the margin of the car, which [illegible] by [illegible] to [illegible] The [illegible] of [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] of the gas [illegible]

[illegible] To the horror [illegible] a fr- [illegible]. Under the [illegible] was [illegible] Much [illegible] broke [illegible] reports like the discharge of a [illegible] the [illegible] and presently [illegible]

Thus they [illegible] for a considerable time expecting every moment to be hurled to the earth by the [illegible] of the balloon. At length [illegible]. When within a few feet from the [illegible] the catastrophe they had so long dreaded took place—the balloon forcing its way through the netting [illegible] with a loud explosion and the aeronauts fell to the earth insensible. It was at [illegible] that they were dead, but with great [illegible] they were at length restored to consciousness and health.

[illegible] of the most famous and longest [illegible] of which any record has been kept, was [illegible] and it received its name [illegible] from [illegible]. It was [illegible] by [illegible] watch and

[illegible] bed if necessary.

[illegible]

DEATH OF AN AERONAUT.

[illegible] before them hung a [illegible] black cloud [illegible] stretched from sea to sky [illegible] their further advance. Into its folds they passed, and then they heard nothing [illegible] the [illegible] near the wide-awake [illegible] ahead.

[illegible] were now made to pass the [illegible] security and comfort as possible. [illegible] to prevent [illegible] the provisions were [illegible] says Mason, [illegible] of our several [illegible] under the circumstances [illegible] we contrived to do ample justice to the good cheer."

[illegible] the landscape, and [illegible] reach nothing [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] on the [illegible] a dull [illegible] confused [illegible] the [illegible] by [illegible] plain of [illegible] by [illegible] point [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Towards [illegible]

[illegible] in the car

[illegible]

[illegible] by the intense cold had yielded to the pressure of the expanding gas, and so caused the alarming shock.

When day dawned the aeronauts looked around [illegible] in the hope of descending, their position but without success. They accordingly decided to [illegible] landing at the first suitable spot. Their first attempt proved fatal, for [illegible] was the force of the wind [illegible] that the balloon was swept towards [illegible] and [illegible] was only avoided by [illegible]. Another attempt was successful and [illegible] in safety near another [illegible] near the town of Wellin[illegible] in the duchy of N[illegible]. The journey of two hundred miles had occupied eighteen hours.

[illegible] welcomed the wonders [illegible] and before they left for [illegible] their [illegible] adventures [illegible] the [illegible] of "The Great Balloon of N[illegible]."

[illegible] Mason, [illegible] an expedition which [illegible] the benefit of the journey or the [illegible] and [illegible] experienced ever [illegible].

[illegible]

[illegible] swings [illegible] to be [illegible]
[illegible] shooters are [illegible] that [illegible] to [illegible]
[illegible] would be hailed [illegible] great [illegible] for [illegible] purposes. On the
4th of July 1797 he ascended [illegible] for the purpose of testing a new parachute. The inventor,
Robert Cocking, thought he had [illegible] the true
principle on which parachutes should be [illegible]
Previous to his time they had been constructed [illegible]
to descend in a concave form like that of an umbrella. The [illegible] carried with him a basket [illegible]
[illegible] times, suspended in an [illegible] to
swing [illegible] during the descent. The [illegible]
[illegible] basket was almost in a horizontal position
[illegible] nevertheless [illegible]
[illegible] form of a [illegible] cone. The
[illegible] was [illegible] of hollow tin, [illegible] the
[illegible] to [illegible]

[illegible] were by no means satisfied with [illegible]
[illegible] trial, they could say [illegible] shake his
[illegible] per hour. According to the
[illegible] swung up and down by a rope, [illegible]
[illegible] from the bottom of the car of the [illegible]
[illegible] Knowing well what would happen
[illegible] the great weight of the parachute was
[illegible] the aeronaut provided a small balloon inside
[illegible] with atmospheric air and fitted with

[illegible] for himself and [illegible] accompanied him.

Green made the trip solely [illegible] pleasure and he was so [illegible] at the prospect of the adventure that he [illegible] which was to [illegible] the [illegible] from the balloon. It seemed [illegible] to find [illegible] a line of the required length [illegible] to the latter's [illegible] and [illegible] the basket of the parachute.

[illegible] difficulty was experienced [illegible] height, partly owing to the [illegible] the expected [illegible] parachute and partly owing to the weight which was about half a ton. At length, [illegible] the Great Nassau was over Germany at an [illegible] of about a mile, Green called out "How [illegible] feel, Mr. [illegible]?" Though a distance of [illegible] separated the aeronauts, each syllable was [illegible] distinct in the silence of that [illegible] which they were for the time being the only [illegible]

"[illegible] feel [illegible]"

"[illegible] your nerve [illegible]"

"[illegible] wonderfully, [illegible]"

"[illegible]"

Upon a [illegible]

I [illegible], Mr. Green. I [illegible], up two miles later. [illegible] the [illegible]

The aeronaut replied that [illegible] wishes to [illegible] by daylight.

"Very well," said Green; "if [illegible] will [illegible], take [illegible] to her. I shall [illegible]"

Again Green tried to [illegible] his friend from what he regarded as a foolish risk, and called out, "Now, Mr. [illegible] at all [illegible] give you [illegible] I have provided a [illegible] and [illegible] up [illegible] wiser."

[illegible] I [illegible] to pull [illegible] cord.

[illegible] Mr. [illegible]!"

[illegible] Mr. Green. A pleasant [illegible] you; good-night."

[illegible] as it was [illegible] the [illegible] work upon the [illegible] [illegible] intense suspense, [illegible] descended [illegible] earth. [illegible] All went [illegible]

[illegible] when suddenly those below who were watching [illegible] gave a loud cry of [illegible]

The [illegible] on one side and [illegible] The [illegible] taking [illegible] large [illegible] and [illegible] when [illegible] turned [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the aeronauts [illegible] the [illegible] to the valve [illegible] their [illegible] that [illegible]

[illegible]

have been saved. As it was, they were completely blinded for some minutes. A [illegible] great Nassau having attained a height of nearly twenty-four thousand feet, slowly descended, and the aeronauts safely reached the ground near Meaux.

Many pages might be filled with the [illegible] narrative of Green's adventures but one [illegible] stands. On one occasion, in company with [illegible] named Pitch he was blown out to [illegible] Great Nassau. Some [illegible] seven hours [illegible] shall [illegible] assistance, he [illegible] a [illegible] of the Nore. [illegible] stuck [illegible] at the mouth of St. [illegible] and was [illegible] and [illegible] over the [illegible] the [illegible] was swept over the water [illegible] a speed of [illegible] miles per hour. [illegible] Green's process [illegible] were [illegible] through every wave, and [illegible] was very [illegible] part of them [illegible] wheel [illegible] they were [illegible] overtaken [illegible] [illegible] in fact [illegible] a sunken wreck [illegible] [illegible] eventually [illegible] [illegible] Albion, flight. A boat soon [illegible] many miles of rope rescued the voyagers.

The [illegible] was not yet over, however, for no [illegible] [illegible] they were near the aerial monster, which [illegible] and tossed, and bounded from side to side. It would [illegible] in an instant [illegible] [illegible] to do anything till the [illegible] boat's crew were obliged [illegible] The men fired muskets loaded with ball [illegible] the restive globe, and [illegible] upon the waves [illegible] not before the [illegible] had been [illegible] with twenty-six bullet-holes.

CHAPTER VII

[illegible]

IN the early days of the year [illegible] rose slowly over [illegible] the [illegible] district [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Aram [illegible] [illegible] over peak and [illegible] snow and revealing to the [illegible] [illegible] such as no man [illegible] ever beheld.

[illegible] the storm raged and the [illegible] strove against the almost overpowering [illegible] of the [illegible], [illegible] his ballast [illegible] A[illegible] he was in danger of being [illegible]

had crossed there

procession.

[illegible] but they returned [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] balloon.

Meanwhile Arnau, after [illegible] a great [illegible], gradually approached nearer and nearer to the [illegible]. He had no means of rising and was [illegible] in the stormy waters of the Adriatic. But [illegible], though too weak to support his weight in the air, he still [illegible] hoping to keep him there [illegible] water. For hours he was tossed over the [illegible] in the waves, now carried over them as the [illegible] rose and fell with the varying [illegible]. Night came on. His limbs were stiff and [illegible] but his human frame could not long withstand these [illegible] shocks, and he felt his strength rapidly [illegible]. Still he held to the hoop with [illegible] [illegible]. He was [illegible] and he knew no more until [illegible] [illegible] on his ear and [illegible] from [illegible] all his [illegible]. His [illegible] were [illegible]. Some sailors returning from [illegible] [illegible] towards him and saved his life.

[illegible] were [illegible] met by [illegible] [illegible] in an [illegible] from Barcelona. He [illegible] to accompany him, but as the wind [illegible] and [illegible] refused to expose her to [illegible] [illegible] and set off alone. His car was [illegible]

[illegible] a little speck in the heavens [illegible] the Spaniards, [illegible] for several days for [illegible] of the [illegible] but none came. His career had come to an end [illegible] the Apils of the Mediterranean.

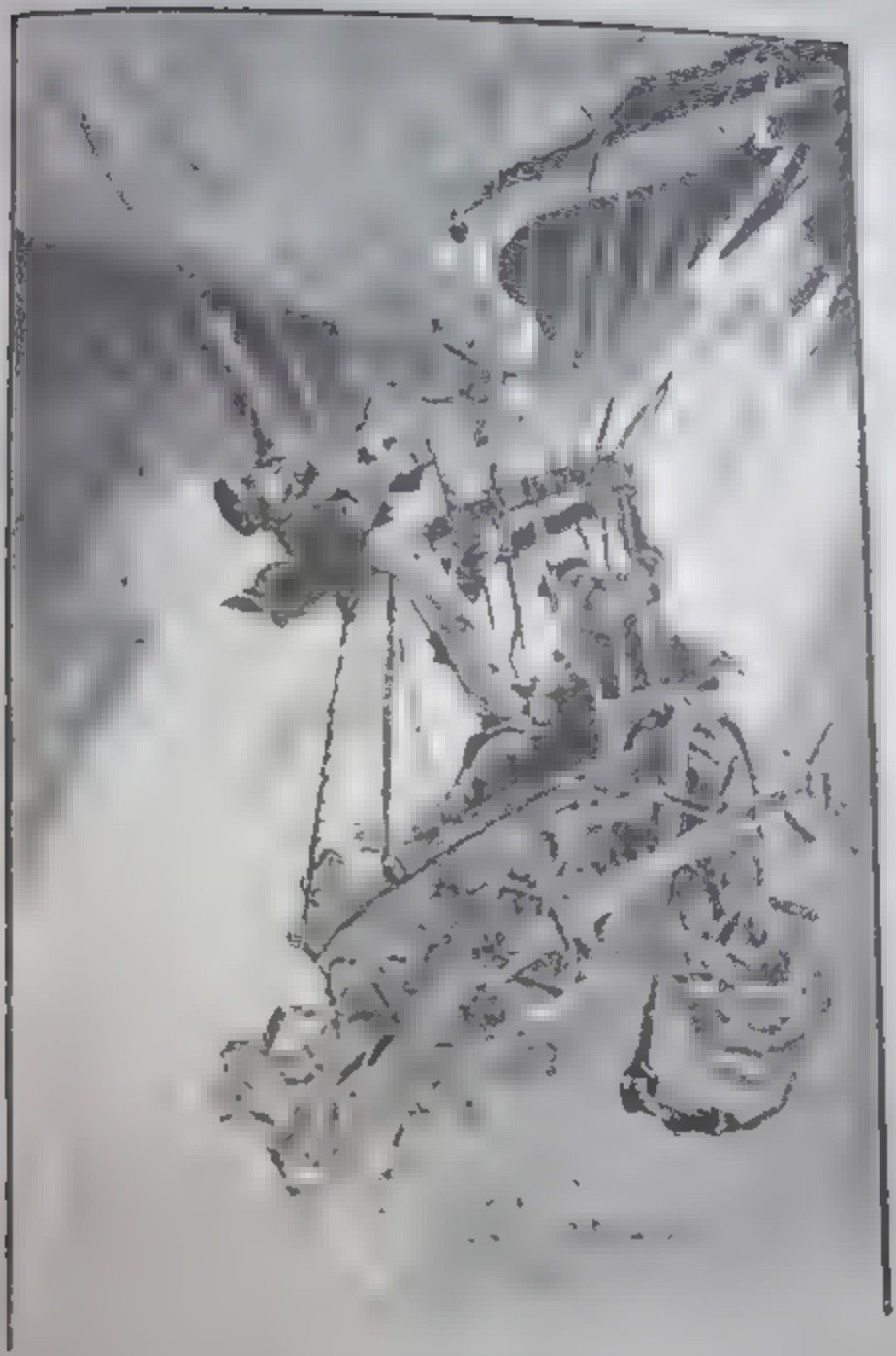
CHAPTER VIII.

STRANGE ADVENTURES.

IN the summer of the year 1847 the veteran aeronaut Henry Coxwell accomplished what is "without doubt the most perilous descent in the annals of aerostation." In the first half of the present century there were numerous pleasure gardens in London from which balloon ascents were made. [illegible] later on the search for sensation [illegible] fireworks were fastened.

[illegible] all was in readiness for the [illegible] the atmosphere [illegible] flashes of lightning were seen in the [illegible] and a rumble of thunder gave warning of [illegible] storm. Then [illegible] Wait [illegible] to take place at [illegible] Some [illegible] to go [illegible] such [illegible] that the weather still [illegible] there was no [illegible] that [illegible] Coxwell [illegible] and [illegible] that it [illegible] everything in order and [illegible] possibly result.

[illegible] were [illegible] two [illegible] entered the car. Coxwell [illegible] the [illegible] to see that the neck of the balloon was [illegible] to give notice to Gypsy [illegible] speed. The cable was slipped [illegible] of the spectators, the balloon [illegible] a [illegible] All went well [illegible] they had attained an [illegible] at the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



A TERRIBLE MOMENT.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of the [illegible] took place. [illegible] while the [illegible] the freshening breeze.

In [illegible] time the [illegible]

[illegible] would [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] wait till the [illegible]

[illegible] two miles [illegible] to travel towards [illegible] I noticed [illegible] below the level of the [illegible] distant. It was [illegible] without [illegible] of the [illegible] I could [illegible]

Shortly [illegible] o'clock, [illegible] It was [illegible] dark [illegible] the [illegible] dwelling. Not [illegible] was [illegible] in the hope [illegible] to fear [illegible] some very [illegible] place. He continued, however, to [illegible] house, but with no better result, [illegible] to spend the [illegible] car.

After a supper of sandwiches [illegible] explore the [illegible] the window of a farmhouse.

[illegible] over [illegible] well [illegible] that they were [illegible] Hardly had he reached the [illegible] Newfoundland dog rushed at him. [illegible] looking to see whether the [illegible] was [illegible] he took to flight [illegible]

[illegible] he had [illegible] the [illegible] which his balloon lay.

[illegible] experience was not [illegible] Here I [illegible] that they had [illegible] very only [illegible]

He [illegible] the [illegible] great distance and resolved [illegible] to proceed [illegible]. Arming himself with [illegible] piece of iron, he [illegible] and after walking about two miles he came to a [illegible] of [illegible]. He strolled up the chief street of the [illegible], turning a corner suddenly, he found himself face to face with a workman on his way [illegible] lost no time in making known his [illegible], but [illegible] excited suspicion instead of [illegible] and the only hope he could [illegible] out of the [illegible] to make known his wants [illegible]

He [illegible] off [illegible], and on

[illegible] to his question. " [illegible] said, ' You don't know what [illegible] [illegible] the county [illegible]

[illegible] was only waiting [illegible] get any [illegible] set off [illegible] when he arrived [illegible] no answer was [illegible] to his request [illegible] went back to [illegible] the night.

[illegible] every stranger was looked upon [illegible] he had heard [illegible] warned by the [illegible] fellow about [illegible] for the [illegible] had had, the [illegible]

[illegible] "As for that, you [illegible] the Humphreys [illegible] great or two is all in character."

In a [illegible] from the Crystal Palace [illegible] of April 1880, Coxwell had every [illegible] to this [illegible] he was [illegible] sportsman. The sport did not [illegible] for suddenly the rope would be [illegible] the ground close at the [illegible] rather to come up with [illegible] rapidly and at less [illegible] height of ten thousand feet. He [illegible] a strong sort [illegible] alone at a [illegible] by the class and [illegible] but as the [illegible] twenty feet [illegible] was [illegible] the less.

W[illegible] had been in the [illegible] they thought it only [illegible] sets [illegible] the out their position. A [illegible] of the class [illegible] to [illegible] the earth. [illegible] only a [illegible] who [illegible] Wills [illegible] "[illegible]

a moment to spare, for below them lay the [illegible] promontory of Beachy Head, and they were almost directly above the sea.

"Quick!" shouted Coxwell, "we must save the land at all risks. Leave the instruments—everything."

Both men seized the valve line and [illegible] with such energy that they not only opened the valve but also tore a large rent in the surrounding silk. The balloon descended almost in a straight line and the car was dashed to the earth with a shock that shattered the instruments, but their lives were saved. A few seconds more and they would have struck the sea.

[illegible] of the [illegible] the [illegible] thousand feet were passed [illegible] four minutes.

I [illegible] similar experience [illegible] passengers [illegible] the sea [illegible] downward [illegible]

[illegible] Two persons were left behind, and the balloon [illegible] Finally it came within reach [illegible] got out.

The balloon again got free and was [illegible] picked up on the shore at Luxulyan Bay and [illegible] in a few paces of the sea.

CHAPTER IX.

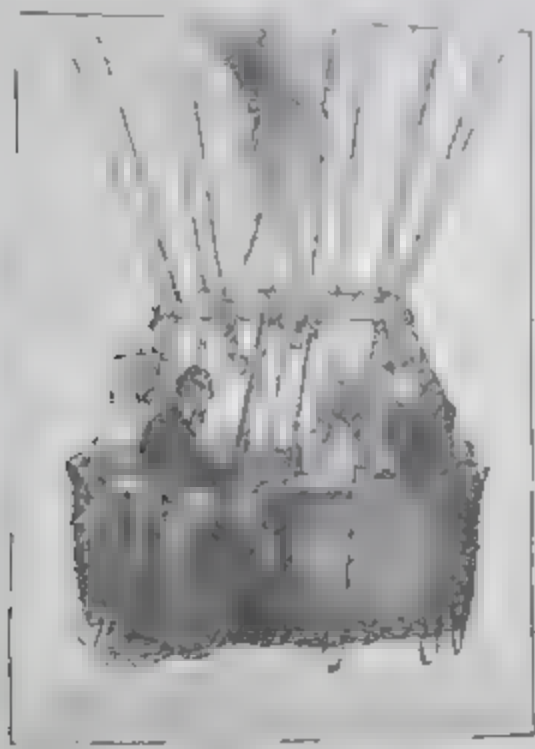
SEVEN MILES HIGH.

THE highest ascent on record was accomplished on the 5th of September 1862 by Mr Coxwell, the hero of the previous chapter, accompanied by the well-known aeronaut, Mr J. Glaisher. This was the most important of the eight scientific ascents made on behalf of the British Association at this time. The little balloon was arranged with the utmost care. Glaisher was specially prepared to take lives in the basket, and about which were about thirty barometers so placed that each could be easily read. Nothing was left undone that was necessary to secure the success of the voyage and the accuracy of the observations.

A fine day on the day named the balloon left Wolverhampton, shortly after [illegible] o'clock. All went well, and in about [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] became conscious of a dimness of sight, and soon



[illegible] BALLOON.

[illegible] fine divisions of his [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

knew that unless a descent was made [illegible] they could not reach [illegible]. He [illegible] were powerless [illegible] with the [illegible] the valve line [illegible] and the balloon [illegible]

He next turned his attention to his [illegible]. The first words of which [illegible] were [illegible] temperature [illegible] and [illegible] speak [illegible] returned and [illegible] up and [illegible] who [illegible] awakened from sleep. "I [illegible] insensible," he said.

"You have," replied [illegible] "and I [illegible] nearly."

He then resumed his former position and [illegible] recorded [illegible] his observations as if nothing had happened. One cannot but [illegible] his [illegible] of duty. Even at this [illegible] he [illegible] to [illegible] his work [illegible] to the [illegible] of observations that would be of value to science.

[illegible] the balloon descended and at last [illegible] the [illegible] from Ludlow. [illegible] and [illegible] was [illegible] town [illegible]. Neither of [illegible] experienced any ill effects from their [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] twenty-three thousand feet [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

oozing from their noses. They [illegible] and were both dead.

The rapidity with which the balloon dropped through space gave no time for thought, and the [illegible] which had befallen his friends numbed his senses. Soon he would be like them—dead—dashed to pieces. It was a terrible position: but with the resource which often comes to men in moments of the direst peril Tissandier saw a way of escape, and proceeded to avail himself of it. With the utmost coolness he cut away the grapnel rope just as the car was about to strike the ground. The balloon rose for a minute and was swept along by the force of the wind. He then opened the silk to check its rapid flight. It was last caught in a hedge at Crouy, a commune of Ile-de-France, a hundred and ninety miles from Paris. The strange visitors were soon by the people in the neighborhood, who, with every care, tell he was [illegible] only [illegible] to home.

[illegible] are no records of the flight that was made [illegible], but it must have been very great.

CHAPTER X.

A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE.

THE Geant was the name applied to a [illegible] balloon which was constructed at Paris in the year 1863. It was made entirely of silk, and was upwards of a hundred and twenty feet in height. Underneath the globe was a smaller balloon called the compensator, which was intended to prevent [illegible] during the voyage. The car was perhaps the most wonderful part of this gigantic machine. Just [illegible] it was not unlike a small cottage. It had two stories, thirteen feet long by eight feet high, with [illegible] a skylight and [illegible] windows.

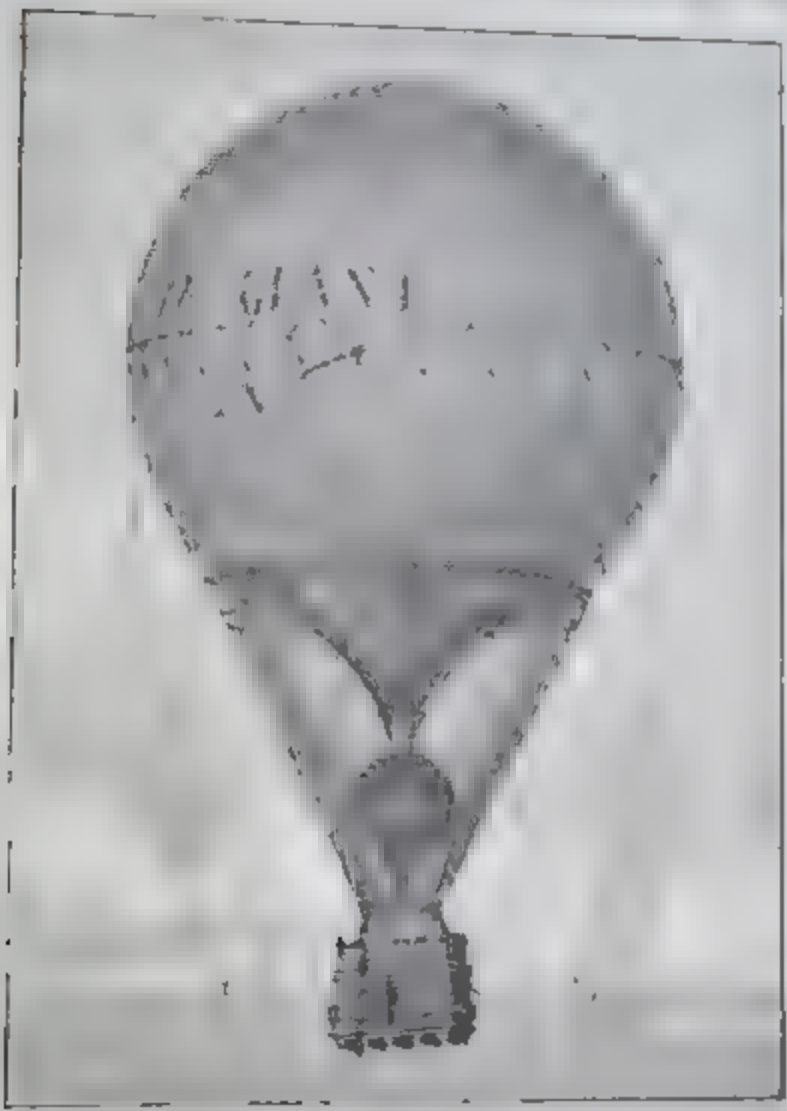
The [illegible] took place in Paris on the [illegible] of October [illegible] under the [illegible] of M. Nadar. The [illegible] of the Geant made a great [illegible]. They were indeed [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] and Mont-Cenis [illegible] assents and [illegible] a crowd [illegible] the equipage of the balloon with its crew of three persons, each of whom [illegible] a passport [illegible] the languages of Europe.

The ascent was slow and gradual at first [illegible] and balloon was feeling its way to the [illegible] The [illegible] descended, and it was [illegible] that ballast had been thrown out [illegible] to the appearance and the [illegible] spectators. Paris was passed over at [illegible] the [illegible] which was [illegible] a wonderful [illegible] Montmartre [illegible]

[illegible]

Over cities, fires, forges, tall chimneys [illegible]



THE "GIANT."

[illegible] Originally there [illegible] became

clearly visible. On one occasion passing over a [illegible] in some one in the excitement of the moment let fly a gun, and for a while the occupants were [illegible] with terror not knowing if the gun was loaded or if the ball might pierce the globe, but nothing of the kind happened. Brilliant, gaudy Brussels was easily left behind, and then the balloon entered a region of silence and darkness. So on through the night the voyage was continued. All was silent [illegible] our sole with Nature wake the [illegible] with [illegible] shouts [illegible] worthy of this ballon.

At [illegible] it was [illegible] and the [illegible] "[illegible] its splendours." But the voyage, so fortunately begun [illegible] termination.

[illegible] the sea.

[illegible] space of the [illegible] there was no [illegible]

[illegible] upon the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] the [illegible] to rock and tremble. The [illegible] the [illegible] which had been thrown out in the [illegible] hope of missing their prey was soon [illegible] free of the collision as it at last became [illegible] the [illegible] crowd they flew with [illegible] to the bay at an ever increasing gale.

The shocks were now so frequent that it was impossible to count them and at each stroke [illegible] reverberated like an indistinct bass set to [illegible] a length of fifty feet. The terror-stricken [illegible] crowded by this time to one side of the [illegible] as this happened to be the side which struck the [illegible] heavy strings and chains were [illegible] tenfold.

By a [illegible] or slip or by the loss of [illegible] at [illegible] moment, we should have been [illegible] in [illegible] creations. [illegible] shoulder and [illegible] against [illegible] at the same time. Our tight [illegible] occasional [illegible] Wait a day what we [illegible] [illegible] stories. For in the [illegible] we [illegible] tree. We approach it [illegible] and we break it as it were a straw

Two terrified horses, with manes and tails [illegible], endeavour to fly from us, [illegible] and leave them behind momentarily.

But a still greater danger was at hand. The path of the balloon was next crossed by a railway embankment, along which a train was slowly travelling. Petrified with fear, the aeronauts clung to their posts awaiting the catastrophe. They knew well enough that one of two things must happen; either they would be caught by the locomotive, or the balloon would in its hurricane speed overturn the train. A few yards more and all will be over. So they thought, but they had reckoned without the engine driver. He, too, comprehended the danger and, after quickly bringing the train to a standstill, backed just in time to allow the flying monster to sweep past.

"Look out for the wires!" cried the man, and those in the car instantly lowered their heads in obedience to the well-timed warning. No one was hurt, but several of the ropes were cut. Still the balloon kept on her headlong course, tearing after her like the [illegible] the telegraph wires and the poles by which they were supported [illegible].

[illegible] the car [illegible] in a [illegible] [illegible] were [illegible] down

out, and several of them had their limbs broken. The Blind King of Hanover treated the unfortunate aeronauts with great hospitality, and entertained them until they had sufficiently recovered to return to Paris.

CHAPTER XI.

TWIXT SEA AND SKY

To Jules Durnof belongs the proud distinction of having been the first man to show the way out of Paris in a balloon, when the French capital was besieged by the Germans in 1870. As a French writer says: "An aeronautical Curtius was wanted, who would throw himself head-foremost into the gulf of the clouds and Durnof did not hesitate to brave the ire of the Prussians with an old balloon leaking at every seam."

He had been one of the crew of the Geant, and in that terrible trip he had learned the lesson invaluable to aeronauts, never to despair, a lesson which in subsequent years stood him in good stead on more than one perilous occasion. With the means now at his disposal, he knew that his only hope of safety lay in the force with which he started so he launched

his balloon like a projectile which passes from a monster mortar." He carried with him a number of despatches for the authorities at Tours then the seat of government.

His ascent could not escape the eyes of the watchful Prussians who greeted his appearance overhead with a rolling fire of musketry and followed the course of the balloon in hot pursuit expecting it would be brought down. It was no longer time to keep the leaky glove afloat and Duruof's utmost skill and attention were called into action, but at last this had extricated the terrible situation with a coolness truly Parisian. Having secured a large portion of ballast and seen beyond the range of the enemy's fire, he threw out the lastre down on the heads of the Prussians who, infuriated at his escape no less than his contemptuous treatment of them directed a salvo of artillery against the vanishing balloon. Fortunately the drag around it was out of reach and he eventually landed safely nineteen miles away.

Towards the end of July 1870, Duruof made one of the most sensational events ever recorded. He had arranged to start from Calais, with the intention of crossing the Channel in his balloon. His wife was to accompany him. When everything was in readiness, the wind was

favorable and the authorities refused to [illegible] on its departure. The Mayor [illegible], had at the outset of his conversations and discussions made the decision of the council known to the people. They naturally thought that the [illegible] with Donnet, [illegible] their consignment [illegible] personally [illegible] the aeronaut of being [illegible]. The man who had opened the aerial route from Paris to [illegible] to pay [illegible] to their grumblings. But at no [illegible] was [illegible] of the balloon he set out before the [illegible] had time to prevent him, [illegible] Night came, terribly dark and stormy as the venturous voyagers vanished over the sea.

When the story of the ascent became known throughout Europe, it was received with mingled [illegible] of horror and admiration, horror that so [illegible] should have been driven to so desperate a [illegible] for the heroic rashness which prompted him to risk two lives that the charge of [illegible] might never appear against his name. Nor [illegible] heroic is the trusting simplicity of his wife, who in [illegible] of the perils, calmly accompanied her [illegible], confident of his coolness and energy.

Three days passed during which the utmost [illegible] prevailed. All hoped but none expected

ever to learn of the adventure [illegible] At length the unfortunate [illegible] was [illegible] that Darnford [illegible]

Their escape was [illegible] Were [illegible] rescued they were carried by the wind [illegible] the North Sea. Towards night fall Darnford [illegible] to attract the attention of some passing [illegible] without success. The violence of the wind was by this time greatly increased, and the position of the aeronauts became more and more hazardous. The balloon had a strong downward tendency, and it seemed to them no escape from a watery grave.

At length the *Gordon* a fishing smack from Grimsby hove in sight. Darnford shouted frantically for help and the Frenchmen at once slipped the course of their boat towards the balloon. What happened after that cannot be better described than in the words of their own words.

"The sea was very rough indeed. I opened the valve and descended until the ropes were trailing in the water and in an instant we were past the vessel. The crew of the smack, however, launched the boat and two men rowed it towards us. It was three o'clock and, seeing the goodwill of the fishermen was to help us, I resolved to lighten the speed of the balloon by spilling the valve until the car [illegible]

[illegible] water and thus gave us no resistance to the speed of the balloon. When I turned round and looked I could not see the vessel. From [illegible] to time tremendous waves broke over the [illegible] us with water. We were driven [illegible] to the sea and I was in constant fear lest the balloon should [illegible], in which case we should assuredly have [illegible].

'At seven o'clock we again [illegible] the horizon and saw that she was passing [illegible] degrees we noticed that she came [illegible] to us. The cold was most intense, and our limbs were [illegible] benumbing powerless. Our strength failed us, and the hope of being overtaken by the search-party grew more and more remote to us. My wife's limbs were [illegible] that [illegible] of the balloon [illegible] the water and washed, until I had to support her entire weight in my arms. I [illegible] to [illegible] prayers until was now only about six hundred yards [illegible]. I pointed this out to my wife, [illegible] renewed her courage. I [illegible] myself on the [illegible] [illegible]. My sailors said he would the [illegible] trimmed by Wilson [illegible] Jones [illegible] of the stock. They [illegible] to the [illegible] hold of the rope.'

[illegible] of water [illegible] Pilot [illegible] will [illegible] an [illegible] of

[illegible] dress of [illegible] The [illegible] y [illegible] suddenly [illegible], the balloon which had [illegible] through the [illegible] a famous [illegible]

"The [illegible] was nearly sinking," [illegible] on account of the strong jerks of the balloon [illegible] they [illegible] lost [illegible], and, taking hold of [illegible] [illegible] like a corpse, dragged [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] into their [illegible] I was lashed [illegible] the [illegible] and let myself fall out, where I lay on the floor, [illegible] as my wife. The men let go of [illegible] the balloon rushed off with a [illegible] speed towards Norway."

[illegible] and his [illegible] were taken on board the [illegible] and conveyed to [illegible] They were received in [illegible] with the [illegible] a banquet was [illegible] at the Crystal Palace in which the [illegible] [illegible] Wrangel returned to [illegible] [illegible] a hardness of [illegible] [illegible] in the construction of large [illegible] which he gave the name of Vice [illegible] in honour of the town.

[illegible] died at [illegible] [illegible] of August 1876. He had [illegible]

[illegible] his former experience and to prevent accident he [illegible] steamers to cruise about in the offing. He [illegible] [illegible] attended by the same dangers as in the Northern [illegible]

The word was [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] Hoping to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Dunn [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] to an [illegible] fourteen [illegible] [illegible] was still [illegible] so he determined [illegible] the water. His [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] When the Vitale [illegible] approached [illegible] Dunn threw out [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the spool, so that the crew of the steamer [illegible] in a few minutes [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] on [illegible] part. Strange to say, a repetition of this experiment on the following [illegible] [illegible] the total [illegible] of the Vitale [illegible]

A few years ago a French [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from Havre [illegible] by two [illegible] in a balloon called the [illegible] It was [illegible] that [illegible] by a [illegible] [illegible] it [illegible] the French part of the Channel. They [illegible] from view and for a week nothing was

heard of them and they were given up for lost. They were, however, by what seems a special providence, saved, and the story of their adventure rivals the perils endured by Daniel and his wife.

When Besançon saw what course the balloon was taking, he opened the valve. When it neared the surface, he threw out a weight which he hoped would serve as a floating anchor, and by the aid of which by paying out or taking in rope, the Jupiter might be kept at a safe distance from the waves. This plan was excellent and had often been successful, but on this occasion the gale was so strong, and the plunging of the aerostat so violent that the stout rope snapped like thread and the anchor was lost.

Like a frightened steed, the balloon plunged hither and thither, nearly upsetting the car at each bound while the aeronauts clung in silent terror to the edge, in momentary expectation of being thrown out. They succeeded, with difficulty, in making their craft, and it gradually sank to the water. Everything made for the weight was cast overboard but without success. Then they divested themselves of the greater part of their clothing, and the balloon slowly rose. But the respite was brief, and in the meantime their sufferings from cold were extreme.

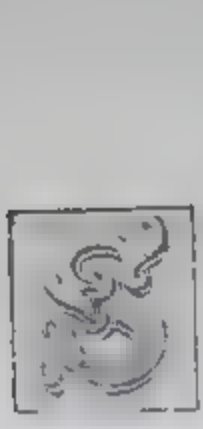
The merchants heard the [illegible] of [illegible] in the boats and shouted to attract their attention [illegible] vain. They were barred out of [illegible] awful force broken only by the roar of [illegible] settled upon them. Three [illegible] they were buffeted [illegible] It [illegible] with all exposure and [illegible] They [illegible] hope and gave their lives up for lost.

Day dawned. Suddenly they saw [illegible] them. They shouted [illegible] what [illegible] they could. Eagerly they watched [illegible] they saw with unspeakable [illegible] put off from the steamer. No ordinary sailors and boatmen were trained to pilot the boats through a sea [illegible] was required in getting alongside [illegible] At the risk of their lives the sailors [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] out of the very jaws of death. The merchants were taken on board the steamer, where they received every possible kindness and attention. When they had subsided to recover, they learned that they had been the victims of German spies—they had been robbed by their national enemies.

The [illegible] descended [illegible] where the [illegible] become [illegible]

CHAPTER XII.

TRIPS FROM FOULAND.



TANLEY SPENCER the head of the well-known firm of bell-founders is an merchant of great energy and experience. He has made over two thousand bell-founding, and nearly a thousand church lessons. Not long his adventures been confined to England. He has traved the bays of bear in the Cape, America, France and other Continental countries.

He carries on his wrist an ugly scar, which he received a few years ago in Hayti, rather curious circumstances. He was to raise a parachute descent from a hot air balloon. Such a machine has to be filled with hot nettings and had to be tied down by a small army of men till everything was ready for the start. The place from which the start had to be made was badly chosen, being

[illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] wires.

Hardly had Spencer started [illegible] than a [illegible] wind caught the balloon and [illegible] posts and [illegible] which [illegible] having [illegible] to reach the [illegible] was expended [illegible] the [illegible] feet from the ground he was swept against the telegraph wires, one of which caught his wrist, [illegible] the scar of which [illegible] his chest. He [illegible] and after a few more [illegible] he got free and [illegible] with a long piece of wire hanging to his [illegible].

Much precious time had meanwhile been lost, and the gas had escaped in such quantities that it was [illegible] to reach the height necessary for a safe descent by parachute. [illegible] wrist [illegible] freely, and [illegible] to feel faint. He [illegible] balloon, and for a time [illegible] What [illegible] that [illegible]

When he came out of the hospital a great crowd of Spaniards was waiting to receive him in the presence that an accident had happened or that patriotic disorder had taken place. So great was their admiration for what they regarded as a feat of unparalleled daring that they took the astonished his carriage and dragged him through the streets in triumph till the police came to the rescue of the bewildered aeronaut.

There is nothing of which an aeronaut has a greater dread than to be carried out to sea, but Spencer has encountered this adventure on several occasions. On one occasion he ascended from Prince Edward Island on a beautiful calm day. All went well till he had reached an elevation of three thousand feet when the wind shifted and carried him out over the water. Fortunately he had taken the precaution of putting a parachute so that when he left the car which he launched he felt little apprehension.

Down he went into the water like a stone. When he came to the surface his first thought was for his parachute. It was floating near like a huge cloud. He swam over and, determined to save it, dragged it ashore. The crowd on shore lost no time in [illegible] that he had but narrowly escaped [illegible] death. Because this time he was [illegible]

[illegible]er water for as the parachute got wet it [illegible] down and it was only by the [illegible] that he was able to keep himself and [illegible] afloat.

A few years ago, Spencer had another "salt water experience." This time he went from Sydney. The day was bright and calm and [illegible] an ideal trip. The balloon rose quickly to a [illegible] of five thousand feet, the highest height from which a safe descent can be made by parachute. Just as he was preparing to cast loose, a strong upper current swept the balloon seawards. Quickly he threw out every ounce of ballast in the hope of changing his direction and in a few minutes the balloon mounted fifteen hundred feet.

Looking over the edge of the car, Spencer saw the sea below him shining in the strong sunlight like a silver mirror. From the distance it was impossible for him to choose his landing-place or to know whether or not he would alight in the water.

"The chances looked decidedly in favour of my taking an involuntary bath," he said afterwards, "but I [illegible] to let go. As it happened, I landed on the [illegible] a few yards of the cliff, and escaped with [illegible] more than a spoiled bath."

On another occasion at Halifax, Nova Scotia, he

was less fortunate. On falling into the [illegible] he became entangled in the cords of the parachute, so that he was practically powerless to keep it [illegible]. Just when he was giving up all hope, he was [illegible] rescued by a passing fishing smack.

At Bristol in the autumn of 1894, Spencer had a most exciting adventure, and one from which he was a novel he escaped with his life. The day was altogether unsuitable for the aeronaut. Heavy rain fell and the wind was boisterous, with now and then a heavy squall. Being unwilling to disappoint those who had come to see him, he determined to risk an ascent. When only a few hundred feet from the ground the balloon was struck by a heavy squall, before he really saw what had happened, he found himself falling rapidly.

He was to meet the ground to make a [illegible] particulars so there was no way of escape. For one [illegible] saw a [illegible] of white upturned faces [illegible] to, the next he went [illegible] the roof of a house, and [illegible] in which two old ladies were [illegible]. He [illegible] stopped. He was picked up [illegible] to a hospital. In [illegible] heavy squall [illegible] were broken and beyond a few [illegible] bruises [illegible] was only the [illegible]

Three days later he ascended under more favorable conditions, and accomplished the descent in safety.

An exciting scene took place at a Forester's fête near Cannes early in 189[illegible] Amongst the attractions was a parachute descent by a lady aeronaut named Adèle Macdonald. A balloon was used for the ascent, and the apparatus used was complicated and clumsy. She had a thick strap round her waist, and to it were attached the three ropes of the parachute, which was in its turn attached to the car of the balloon.

When all was ready the order to let go was given, and the balloon shot upwards, but the men who were holding the small wicker chair in which the girl sat let go too soon. The consequence was that the cordage between the chair and the parachute struck against a violent jerk, and to the horror of the spectators the aeronaut was thrown out of the chair, and hung suspended by the belt.

The balloon was rushed with great velocity, and all the while the girl was seen helplessly struggling in the air, and holding the cords of the parachute. At a height of about three thousand feet the parachute parted under her, and almost at the same moment she broke away from the balloon. For a few seconds her descent was headlong, and then, as if by a miracle, the

[illegible] chute opened, and stay[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Troyon, on the 12th of April [illegible] had no car, and the aronaut [illegible] suspended from the netting. On reaching a height of four thousand feet, the balloon got into a strong current and twisted right round. The wind then caught the parachute, causing the wooden rod to grip him tightly under the arms. While he was trying to put matters right again, the test cord broke and the parachute hung down below, fully inflated. The pressure on his limbs was so great that he had the utmost difficulty in retaining his seat, and a descent was impossible. He therefore opened his penknife with his teeth, and cut the cords of the parachute.

This caused the balloon to shoot six thousand feet higher, and on reaching that altitude he was [illegible] by another current, which brought with it sleet and snow. He never for a moment lost his self-possession, and during his strange voyage was able to take note of the merest detail of his surroundings.

The storm lasted [illegible] the Hastings was [illegible] sound which reached [illegible] of rains. When he passed [illegible] the sun was shining out [illegible] as far as the eye could reach he saw [illegible] the snow-clad mountains. So clear were the [illegible] that he could see a distance of [illegible] glistening on the [illegible] Brighton.

Presently the [illegible] almost the [illegible] when he [illegible] than others took their places. [illegible] he was quite deaf. He thought he was [illegible] Hastings or Brighton, for the cold small [illegible] reached him. The cold on then [illegible] a lower [illegible] and to accelerate the descent [illegible] the gas rope and pulled the balloon partly over on one [illegible] to allow some gas to escape by the mouth.

Swinging on his trapeze, Hastings kept an eager watch for the earth. At length he saw the welcome sight of the [illegible] fields. The balloon travelled very [illegible] in a [illegible] direction for about six miles, [illegible] slowly descended. When he was about two [illegible] feet from the earth, he let himself hang by [illegible] from the trapeze bar, as if he were [illegible] from the trapeze [illegible] the [illegible] The [illegible] Hastings [illegible]

balloon, which was in front of [illegible] for several yards and then rose [illegible] feet into the air between two [illegible] His perilous position was seen by some [illegible] who ran to [illegible] when he came to with the second [illegible] they [illegible] balloon and held it till the [illegible]

He landed on a farm at Penshurst near [illegible] with hands, feet and legs bruised, but [illegible] pleased with his remarkable escapade.

At the festival of the London Sunday School Union, which was held at the Crystal Palace in 1892, one of the chief features of the entertainment was a balloon ascent by Captain Dale, a well-known and skilled aeronaut. About six o'clock on the evening of the 29th of June, the balloon was inflated and the [illegible] entered the car, accompanied by [illegible] companions. The order to let go was given and he [illegible] very quickly travelling with the wind in a southerly direction.

In a few minutes an altitude of six hundred [illegible] had been reached. The crowds of spectators [illegible] groomes were clearly [illegible] the course of the balloon, which all in an instant they were forced to see it close. A large tent appeared [illegible] through which the gas escaped almost [illegible] The balloon dropped like a stone.

The aeronauts could be distinctly seen struggling against the fearful fate which awaited them. Ballast, bags, ropes, everything indeed which was likely to lighten the car was thrown out hastily, wildly. Some idea of their desperation may be formed from the fact that they wrenched the buttons from their clothing in their frantic endeavours to lessen the speed of their descent. These were afterwards found among the debris. Down came the balloon and landed with a sickening thud on the grass near the Lower Lake.

Willing helpers were quickly on the scene. Everyone expected to find that the four occupants of the car had been dashed to pieces. All were alive, but fearfully injured. Captain Dale only lived a few minutes. The others were taken to the hospital. Nine days later, another death was added, that of Cecil Stradbolt, one of the secretaries of the Western Kansas Sunday School Union.

CHAPTER XIII.

TRAGIC ADVENTURES.

NOTWITHSTANDING the host of dangers which attend the aerial traveller from the moment he enters the car until the time he leaves it, the number of casualties in the navigation of the air has been less in proportion than in the navigation of the sea. Taking fifteen hundred aeronauts and ten thousand ascents, only about fifteen lives have been lost.

There are, however, many tragic adventures on record. In the early part of the century an Englishman named Knight made a number of successful ascents from Bombay. One day, when the wind was blowing strongly from the land, an Indian prince came forward and offered him a large sum of money if he would make an ascent. Knight looked skyward and without hesitation accepted the offer, for on the horizon he saw a numerous fleet of native boats. He

accident and was driven out to sea. On [illegible] boats, he opened the valve and called to the [illegible] come to his assistance; but when the [illegible] monstrous apparition descended from the [illegible] were filled with terror and made [illegible] the reach of the 'superhuman monster.' Left to his fate the aeronaut was soon engulfed in the waves.

Madame Blanchard, the wife of the pioneer-voyager across the Channel, was as famous an aeronaut as her husband. She was a veritable queen of the air and used to ascend in a car so small and fragile that it was likened to a child's cradle. On the 7th of July 1819 she made an illuminated ascent from the Tivoli Gardens. When at a great height, a quantity of escaping gas caught light from the fireworks and in an instant the balloon was in flames. The people below, seeing the blaze, and ignorant of what had happened, rent the air with shouts of 'Bravo! Vive Madame Blanchard!' thinking that they were witnessing a new sensation.

Their shouts reached the ears of the aeronaut, who with splendid nerve was trying might and main to extinguish the fire; but the flames had got and the mischief. The balloon burst and she threw out her ballast to moderate her fall. Driven back by the [illegible] pressure the gas remained the balloon

and was extinguished. She would yet be saved. But the pitiless wind blew her on to the roof of a house. At the moment of the shock she were heard to cry "Adieu!" (Help). These were her last words. In glancing along the roof, the car caught on a piece of iron and was overturned. The brave lady was taken unawares, and before she could seize hold of a rope she was precipitated to the street below where she breathed her last.

The mistake of some French peasants led to the death of Lieutenant Gale in 1870. He made an early morning ascent from Bordeaux, and descended in a copse, but he failed to make the peasants who came with his assistance understand what he wanted them to do. As soon as the horse was unhitched the balloon blew upwards at a great speed. On the following day it was found caught in the branches of a tree; but it was not till a week later that the horrible fate of the unfortunate aeronaut was ascertained. He was found in a wood hard by, having become the prey of wolves.

In 1887 a young gentleman named Clements fell a victim to the prevalence of high winds. He ascended from Nottingham, and neglected to open the upper valve to allow the gas to escape which consequently found its way out by the neck. It is said that he was blown across the Humber by the fierce gale and the

valve line round his wrist and pulled. Then he became unconscious. The balloon dropped to the earth with a crash, and the unfortunate aeronaut was picked up dead.

Captain Donaldson, an American aeronaut, made an ascent from Chicago in August 187. The wind was so violent that at first it was found impossible to inflate the balloon. So determined was he, however, that he caused a row of heavy poles to be erected across which stout sheets were stretched to break the force of the gale. When at length the globe was filled two journalists entered the car and the order was given to let go. The balloon rose but was immediately dashed to the ground. One of the passengers profited by this accident to drop from the car and leave his companions to their fate. Relieved of his weight the balloon disappeared like an arrow in the direction of Lake Michigan.

A few hours later, the captain of a small Swedish schooner bound for Chicago saw the balloon approaching the water, and made all sail to the rescue. So fierce was the hurricane that the little vessel was soon alongside. The crew were just in time to lay hold of the trailing rope, and Captain Donaldson and his companion ascended, which, with a supernatural swiftness, the balloon bounded from their grasp and was quickly lost to

view. Three weeks later the bodies of the [illegible] adventurers were cast ashore by the waves.

Another aerial traveller who met his death under similar circumstances was Walter Powell, who started from Bath on the 10th of December 1[illegible], accompanied by two friends. When they had been [illegible] point near Bridport in Dorset they attempted to descend within half a mile of the sea. The [illegible] struck the ground with such violence that his companions were thrown out of the car, and [illegible] necessary to provide for his own safety, he was [illegible] out to sea. A number of vessels went in pursuit [illegible] returned without having obtained [illegible] of the balloon. The coasts of France and Spain were carefully searched, but no trace was ever found of the missing balloon or its occupant. Doubtless he was drowned in the depths of the Channel.

In June 188[illegible] an aeronaut named Wilkins was killed at Charleston, West Virginia, under circumstances which a little courage and presence of mind could easily have prevented. He was in the act of preparing to ascend when the balloon swayed [illegible] a furnace and was set on fire. The men who were holding the ropes became panic-stricken and fled. Wilkins had no chance of escape and sat in the car calmly awaiting death. The [illegible]

[illegible] a thousand feet into the air and then [illegible] dropped.

A honeymoon trip in the Alps had recently a disastrous ending. Captain Charbonnet, an aeronaut well known throughout Italy, presented his wife with a new balloon as a wedding gift and in September 1897 the couple started from Turin and descended at Polesi, where they were received by the inhabitants with great enthusiasm.

On the following day, accompanied by a friend named Petta, they made a fresh ascent, with the intention of passing the Alps and descending on French territory. All went well till they neared the Cornella Peaks, when the balloon was caught in a hurricane and dashed with great violence against a glacier and made a total wreck. Strange to say, the travellers escaped with but trifling injuries. They spent the first night amid the snow and ice, obtaining what shelter they could under the remains of the balloon.

When day dawned, they decided to attempt the descent of the mountain, although the weather was very misty and terribly cold. Charbonnet led the way. The party had not proceeded far when he suddenly [illegible] into a crevasse. The wife of the [illegible] wandered about, dreading lest

every step [illegible] precipitate their [illegible] fatal [illegible] abyss. Towards [illegible] and [illegible] as a [illegible] passed the [illegible] snow, we [illegible] side of her wounded companion [illegible] from cold and almost benumbed by grief.

In the morning Ponta was unable to [illegible] brave lady set off alone to look for assistance. [illegible] and again on that terrible journey she was [illegible] point of giving up in despair and would gladly [illegible] welcomed the sleep which meant death [illegible] taught that her life depended on [illegible] travel her to go forward. At length in a [illegible] where she told her sad story. A [illegible] set out to the rescue and carried Ponta [illegible] hut, which quickly recovered from his [illegible] and with the wind [illegible] returned to [illegible] fearfully mangled.

M. [illegible] one of the survivors of the [illegible] fatal [illegible] which took place in France. A [illegible] gives a thrilling account of the [illegible]

We had been five [illegible] found ourselves in such thick clouds [illegible] [illegible] Suddenly the [illegible]

"WE FOUND OURSELVES IN THICK CLOUDS."

[illegible] and the car leaped forward. At the same time we were [illegible] by large [illegible] and heavy [illegible]. We were driven forward with [illegible] speed. In an instant we threw over everything [illegible] and [illegible] across. The [illegible] spread [illegible] like a [illegible], and soon passed [illegible] the [illegible]. We were under a heavy sky in the [illegible] of an [illegible] storm.

Gradually it grew [illegible] and [illegible] and our [illegible] were frozen stiff. [illegible] for [illegible] to the [illegible] of the car, and [illegible] of us were not much better off. We were all [illegible] for the hot bed we had left. As I looked I saw a large black cloud moving from south-west to north-east. But we still rose. Then I saw [illegible] thing more. [illegible] streamed from my nose and ears. My hairs were frozen hard as a board.

"In a few minutes we had risen to a height of nearly five thousand yards. Then we began to sink, at first slowly then rapidly. All at once we were again in complete darkness. We were in the midst of the [illegible]. Again, and I felt and saw the wind drive the balloon on at a speed of ninety miles an hour. We were blinded by the heat and could scarcely breathe. For I did not [illegible] of reaching the earth so soon.

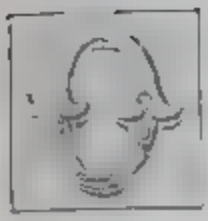
"Presently the [illegible] and [illegible] began to be mixed

with leaves and [illegible] of [illegible]. The car [illegible] violently shook and we fell against each other. [illegible] had to hold on to the ropes. Then we began to [illegible] along the ground. The balloon suddenly rose. I [illegible] my rope go and was dashed to the ground. Eugène, one of my companions, learned that I had voluntarily jumped out. He jumped out after me and fell near me with a broken leg.

Thus lightened of weight, the balloon rose [illegible] rapidly. Rushing through the tree-tops at [illegible] about six miles in the direction of Gretz. As it hung on the top of a tree, Foucard tried to land [illegible] a rope, but was thrown violently to the earth. A woman saw the balloon hanging in the trees, and sent the people at her inn to the rescue. Foucard was found covered with mud and [illegible] his face [illegible]. He still breathed. When his head was [illegible] with the intention of giving him stimulants he was [illegible] with a convulsion and soon expired. As he was carried away a weak voice was heard calling from the car for help. Two ladders were brought and tied together and a gendarme [illegible] up to the [illegible]. It took an hour to get him down. When [illegible] the ground he fainted away. He was [illegible] only regained his senses [illegible] continued friction."

CHAPTER XIV.

WHICH WAY DOES THE WIND BLOW?



On the 5th of March last, a party of the Royal Engineers and a party of Royal Sappers passed through Cape Town and set out from Cape Town to the Kuruman Country. The main object of the journey were made to secure the success of the voyage. Meteorological observations were taken for several days and it was found that it was at sea and so soon as the surface reports were received. During the morning of the day named, a telegram was received stating that the wind at Beaufort and Cape Town was moderate from the north, and heavy at sea from westwards.

[illegible]

half past [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] accident [illegible]

The [illegible] of persons [illegible] deputation [illegible] the [illegible] it was followed by load [illegible] a successful [illegible] Gradually the [illegible] an [illegible] six or hundred feet and the [illegible] miles were traversed in six minutes. Shortly afterwards, however, the wind fell and the [illegible] accomplished over a field, so low indeed that [illegible] accounts heard some boys say: 'They are [illegible] swimmer fell.' The discharge of a quantity of ballast enabled them to rise four hundred feet [illegible] few minutes later a further sacrifice of ballast was found necessary to maintain this height.

As they approached the sea, they noticed that the ship in the channel seemed as if they were [illegible] in mid net on the water. About half-past [illegible] when [illegible] was between Folkestone [illegible] the [illegible] perfect panorama [illegible] the [illegible] with a feeling akin to awe.

[illegible]

[illegible] which created him in one of the [illegible] whose five week's journey [illegible] is so graphically told by the [illegible]

We could see our own [illegible] and every detail, even to the [illegible] which I happened to be doing at the time. It was a perfect portrait. There was, at the [illegible] a rainbow surrounding the car [illegible] the balloon [illegible] ten feet in diameter and the beauty of the whole scene was strikingly grand."

It was nearly one o'clock before the balloon passed over Shakespeare Cliff and flew out over the Channel. "It was a magnificent sight to see the surf on the coast line beneath us, the green sea, and over beyond us stood the snowy chalk hills." Wishing to go higher, ten pounds of ballast were thrown out and the balloon reached an elevation of [illegible] hundred feet. The current here was [illegible] directly for the coast of France, but the wind shifted to a south-easterly direction. He attempted to descend to a few hundred feet in the hope of finding a favorable breeze, but instead of [illegible] they were driven to sea. [illegible] about at the rate of [illegible] miles an hour at first east and then south-west [illegible]

A slight [illegible] and the [illegible] his [illegible] that they were drifting [illegible] the North Sea. [illegible] further attempt to reach [illegible] had not reply. [illegible], even [illegible] that the [illegible]

On taking a turn downward the [illegible] was sighted [illegible] the [illegible] the [illegible] This called [illegible] put on their cork jackets. [illegible] the water [illegible] Calais.

[illegible] what happened. He says—

[illegible]

[illegible] signal to us to stop.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] presented us with the [illegible] of the low quantity of [illegible]

contained. Simmons was afraid of anyone going near it in case they should be choked. I was afraid lest a spark might send us all to the bottom. I altered our course in the hope of driving the gas out but that did no good, and it was not until I made two slits in the silk, and so allowed the gas to escape, that we were able to continue the passage."

The captain also said that when the aeronauts were rescued, they were drifting rapidly towards the North Sea, and when the rescuing boat got alongside they were standing up to their knees in water.

After a delay of twenty-five minutes, the voyage to Dover was resumed, at which port the adventurers were received with hearty cheers and congratulated on the plucky fight they had made against adverse circumstances.

Dover is not worth any dangerous and to the Daily Graphic at the time the failure of the attempt was attributed to insufficient due. Was it possible to accomplish the voyage? was now the great question. It was that was always blowing from the coast of France.

CHAPTER XV.

BURNALY'S TRAVELS IN THE AIR.

HORTLY after the unsuccessful attempt to cross the Channel related in the previous chapter Colonel Burnaby, the famous Guardsman determined to prove that such a voyage could be undertaken and accomplished. From Wright, the aeronaut of the Crystal Palace, he obtained a suitable balloon, which he had conveyed down to Dover, where he arranged with the manager of the gasworks for the inflation.

The news of the colonel's venture quickly became public and he was inundated with offers from people in all parts of the country who wished to accompany him. But their company would have Burnaby had made up his mind to go alone and he rightly judged that on this depended the success of his expedition. Even when he made this fact known, offers still came in, the aeronaut who had proved

[illegible]

[illegible] and hedges

CHESTERBRAE

which formed a striking background to a picture [illegible] ated with that of an artist

[illegible] was [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible], which fell straight into the water as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

For an hour the balloon remained [illegible] [illegible]. Then it suddenly dropped, and, [illegible] was not [illegible] within five hundred [illegible] the water. The afternoon came [illegible] [illegible] with a better result, so, after waiting for an hour [illegible] longer they waved their caps and rowed away.

Their disappearance was a great relief to Burnaby's mind. He had set out with the firm resolve [illegible] stick on his part, and throughout the [illegible] of the voyage [illegible] he found the most powerful help against the temptation to give up his self-imposed task and descend in safety.

The balloon was still stationary. The day was wearing late and unless he could find some means of reaching the other side in reasonable time, the gas would become exhausted, and his trip would end as previous attempts had done—in the water. He sat down, gazed over his possessions, and in defiance of one [illegible] to great precipitous of serenities, lit a cigar. All the lower air currents [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. His only chance was [illegible] to search, in the hope of encountering a current which would carry him to France. There was the loss of ballast left, and these he

[illegible]

held fast.

[illegible]

[illegible] Paris knew [illegible]
[illegible] to have [illegible] made. [illegible]
during [illegible] and [illegible]
of danger and adventure and when he [illegible]
that it was only seeking a fresh [illegible]
the [illegible] were by an experienced aeronaut, [illegible]
member of the Aeronautical Society.

His first balloon adventure, which happened [illegible]
1874 is typical of the man as we know him [illegible]
evening he was strolling about one of the [illegible]
gardens in London with a number of his [illegible]
It was in the days before the Montgolfier [illegible]
brothers and the French aeronaut Gerard [illegible]
[illegible] back in [illegible] on the following [illegible]
As they were [illegible] at another other [illegible]
[illegible] by Gerard who was interested [illegible]
[illegible] "Is this man who is going up to-morrow?"

"It will be capital," replied Lowndes.

"Let us go and see it," said the other, "when [illegible]
[illegible] not only of getting an idea [illegible]
[illegible] of anything goes wrong, but of [illegible]
[illegible] to [illegible] as well. I should like to see [illegible]
do it."

[illegible] a dare challenge and Barnes [illegible]
accepted it. He spoke to Gerard and [illegible]
[illegible] the next day was arranged. The [illegible]

[illegible] to take him if he paid £[illegible], and [illegible] in keeping up the fire.

On the following evening, Barnaby hurried to the gardens, where he met [illegible] of his friends who [illegible] witness the performance. [illegible] their laugh at his expense, he went [illegible] the balloon, which was suspended from a rope between two [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible] which he was about to risk [illegible] he wished he had not been so rash.

The car was of wood and [illegible] feet across. In the centre was a large [illegible] fire, whence a chimney extended several feet [illegible]. There was nothing [illegible] the car but [illegible] to cords attached in the cloth. Trusses of straw [illegible] to feed the furnace [illegible] were in the air [illegible] when [illegible] started the fire. The flames [illegible] into the balloon, and sparks flew in all directions.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and the pond [illegible] five feet from [illegible]

[illegible] More straw was [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] was proved [illegible] disaster was [illegible]

He was brought to a [illegible] alighted in safety.

After this Burnapy made a [illegible] to the [illegible] Society he took [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] is not without its [illegible]

A [illegible] which [illegible] Inventor's [illegible] was [illegible] to [illegible] The [illegible] consisted of two large wheels which [illegible] turned, and two sets of [illegible] wished to travel.

The [illegible] made arrangements to [illegible] [illegible] Anxious to [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] Burnapy arranged to accompany him. The [illegible] was [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] but there [illegible] Then the [illegible] [illegible]

"Now I will show you the great advantage of my invention. I will throw ballast out and the balloon will rise. Take away weight and the balloon will fall. We will then work the wheels, the screw fans which [illegible] As they revolve we shall leave the earth."

Barnaby's interest had now reached the pitch of curiosity, and he worked with his utmost strength at the wheels, but the united efforts of the [illegible] were in vain. Though the fans revolved at a tremendous pace, the car did not budge an inch. The people who had assembled to see this wonder laughed [illegible]. Becoming tired of this fatiguing and fruitless labour, Barnaby took up a small bag of ballast which was lying near and quietly dropped it over the side. The balloon rose at once. The Frenchman thought the ascent was due to his invention, and gracefully bowed his acknowledgments to the cheers of the crowd.

The wind blew the balloon towards the Thames. The day was cold and the gas condensed rapidly, and the balloon began to descend. Trusting in his invention, the Frenchman paid no heed, but worked away at the wheels. The descent continued in spite of the revolving fans. A moment more and they were in the water. But Barnaby, thinking the [illegible] was badly made, contrived to fall into the water [illegible] with ropes and netting, dropped [illegible]

overboard. [illegible] the balloon ascended. The Frenchman's face relaxed, but his triumph was [illegible]. The splash of the bag as it touched the water [illegible] of the trick that had been played and he was [illegible] and [illegible]. "Why," he asked Barnaby, "did you [illegible] trust to the fans?" They hinted the balloon [illegible] would have done so this time if they had [illegible]. The captain kept his own secret, and nothing more was said.

The balloon ascended rapidly to a height of [illegible] thousand feet when something [illegible] the Frenchman to look up and instantly a look of horror [illegible] over his face. Barnaby followed his gaze and saw that in the excitement of the start they had forgotten to unite the neck of the balloon and so allow for the expansion of the gas. Owing to the peculiar construction of the bag it was absolutely impossible to reach the neck and tie the fastenings. There was therefore no resource but to wait and wait until the pressure of the atmosphere should burst the balloon to burst.

They were ascending rapidly and a few moments more [illegible] suddenly a cracking sound was heard, and the balloon dropped with [illegible] speed. [illegible] Within [illegible] the balloon was [illegible] and on [illegible] to see the [illegible], the aeronauts found that the

lower part of the [illegible]
upper part of the [illegible]
[illegible]
to land. In a few minutes [illegible]
about three inches [illegible]
than a fur to have [illegible]

CHAPTER XVI.

WITH ANDRÉE ACROSS THE DEATH

FEW years ago S. A. Andrée, one of the first engineers in Sweden and famous in this country for his attempt to reach the North Pole by balloon, made a remarkable flight over the Baltic Sea such as never before accomplished. For several months he had been engaged in making ascents solely for purposes of scientific research, and on the 19th of October 1893 he went up to verify some of his observations. Having finished his work, he prepared to descend, when suddenly before he had time to open the ventilator the balloon began falling of itself at a terrific speed. Down it went until it reached a white cloud, when it stopped and seemed to lie like a swan on the water for a few minutes, [illegible] through the cloud.

Meanwhile Andrée had been too much occupied to note the [illegible] in which he was drifting, and the

[illegible] had prevented him from [illegible] where [illegible]. When [illegible] was [illegible] the Baltic. [illegible] He had no hope of escape unless he [illegible] England or meet with a vessel. It was [illegible] perilous position, but his presence of mind [illegible] for a moment forsake him.

"Soon, I saw," he says, "through my [illegible] a steamer trying to cross the way the balloon was [illegible], and being straight in my course, it soon [illegible] stopped. This action on the part of the steamer was simply madness, as the sparks in the [illegible] sufficiently light the gas in the balloon [illegible] to some 16,000 feet, the explosion of which without doubt would have killed many persons. Happily the captain perceived the danger and [illegible] his vessel round."

Now it was my turn to try the best way of [illegible] I threw out the anchor and the [illegible] of the balloon was [illegible], but the steamer was still [illegible] of having. Then I fastened two empty bags [illegible] on my last rope, and threw them into the water. The balloon nearly stopped. The steamer [illegible] had put out all fires, and could not come [illegible] so that all hope of rescue by this means was at an end.

Andrée now saw that there was nothing for it but to try to reach the coast of Finland. He accordingly tried to get the ropes up from the water, which increased the first above the surface, and so took off the additional weight. He then cut away the sand-bags and the balloon was carried by the wind at the rate of [illegible] an hour.

Shortly afterwards he saw a [illegible] which offered him assistance, but the risk of landing was too great and he declined and continued his perilous course. His previous experience had taught him that if he tried to go down to the water while the vessel lay in his way the balloon would have rebounded from the water, and he should have been drowned at once, probably killed.

The force of the wind was now rapidly increased, and the balloon was speeding along at [illegible] miles an hour. It kept at a height of [illegible] eight hundred feet above the surface, and although it often sank down very near the water, the car was never once dipped. It powerful such a [illegible] And [illegible] away [illegible] had been [illegible] It was [illegible] that it a necessary one.

[illegible] to blow [illegible] and a little [illegible] stronger [illegible] the wind and he [illegible] to prepare for the worst. He [illegible]

[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] could not endure it much longer. I felt [illegible] so full that it would have been an [illegible] to stay and hold the [illegible] I [illegible] to persuade—to save myself [illegible] if I jumped down. [illegible] the air and disappeared.

I was saved, but also in [illegible] I was hanging [illegible] I had hurt my leg [illegible] could not stand so I crept round to [illegible] shore, but none was to be found. It was [illegible] moon even and cold [illegible] I shouted aloud, in the hope that [illegible] by some passing boat, but [illegible] took away the sound of my voice.

I then turned my attention to making myself as comfortable as possible for the night, though the prospects were anything but pleasant. I was wet through, my hat had flown away, and I had nothing to put on my head. This made me painfully anxious, because my only chance of being rescued was to keep my head cool. I made a cap of [illegible] and lay down on the cold ground [illegible] to keep my courage [illegible] So passed the long night.

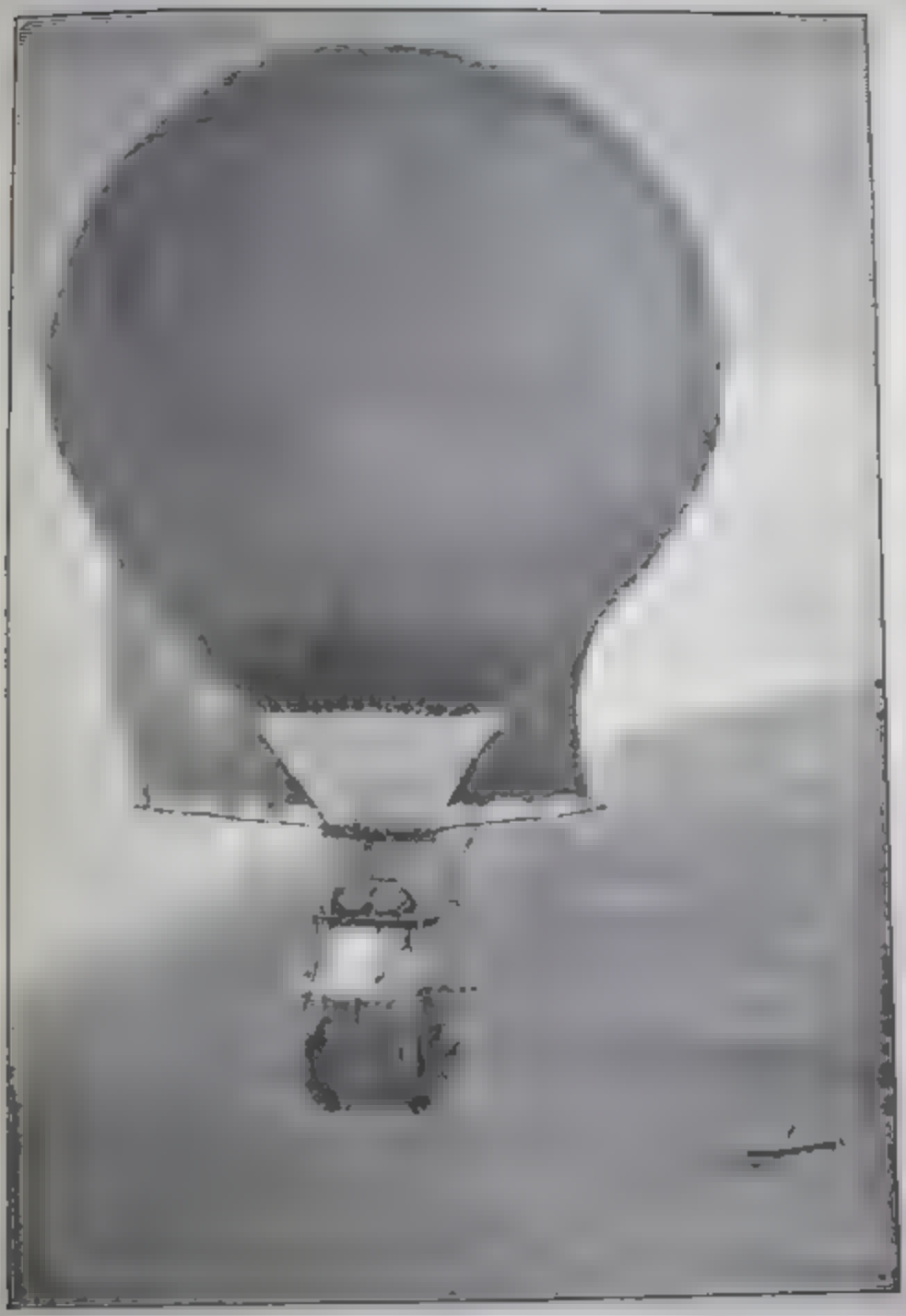
[illegible] I was awakened, I was [illegible] and, [illegible] which I had [illegible] told

[illegible] I saw in the distance the [illegible] and over as I lay [illegible] the [illegible] before. In order to [illegible] attention to my position, I took off my trousers and waved them in the air. Shortly afterwards I was [illegible] to see a boat sail out from the island and steer straight for the place where I lay.

"I soon saw they had not set out in response to my signal, for the men never once looked in the direction of the raft, and the boat passed me. I shouted myself hoarse, but in vain. I began to look about to see if I could make a raft out of the few trees there were, but as I had neither axe nor knife, I was obliged to give up the idea.

When I returned to my sleeping place, I found [illegible] closely. A man on the island had seen a [illegible] with enormous sail come [illegible] sweep, and go thundering [illegible] disappear in the sea. He was [illegible] description of it to the islanders, who knew everything of the kind [illegible].

His curiosity was aroused, and [illegible] he went down to the beach where his glass [illegible] could find out what the strange [illegible] could have been. He then saw my signals and [illegible] to the rescue. I was quickly taken [illegible] house and well cared for."



the balloon was afterwards [illegible] shed some bales away [illegible] extraordinary [illegible] [illegible] good and the course of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

It is now very [illegible] to reach the North Pole by balloon, but Andrée's [illegible] are well known [illegible] decided to carry such a plan to a successful [illegible] and many [illegible] among his own countrymen, who came forward with liberal funds for equipping the proposed expedition. A balloon was accordingly constructed [illegible] capable of carrying three persons, a supply of provisions for ten months, besides the necessary ballast and scientific instruments. The car contained a dark room for photography and a well protected sleeping apartment for the three travellers. The roof of the rooms was designed to form the floor of the upper storey, which served as a sort of promenade deck.

Danes Island, Spitzbergen, was chosen as the starting point, and thither accordingly the balloon was sent in the spring of 1896. On the 23rd of July it was [illegible] four days later everything was ready for

launching. For two months Andrée and his two companions, Ekholm and Strindberg, waited for a favourable breeze, but in vain. The wind continued contrary. Winter came on, and the expedition had to be abandoned.

Undaunted by the failure of their first attempt, however, the explorers determined to return in the following spring. In the meantime Ekholm withdrew from the enterprise, but Andrée and Strindberg, who had never lost heart, returned to Spitzbergen in the summer of 1897 to wait for a favourable wind.

This time their perseverance was rewarded. A brisk southerly breeze sprang up, and the balloon sailed northward over the world white Polar sea. Since then the courageous aeronauts have not been heard of. Time alone will tell whether they have solved the problem of the ages and added to the store of the world's knowledge, or whether they swell the number of those who have perished in the attempt.

THE END.

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